

# MEETING OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY COUNCIL

## 21 JUNE 2023



### 9.1 MULTICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** ALLISON KENWOOD, GENERAL MANAGER, COMMUNITY WELLBEING AND INCLUSION

**PREPARED BY:** SANDRA KHAZAM, DIVERSITY OFFICER

#### 1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To present the Multicultural Advisory Committee 2022 Annual Report (Attachment 1)

#### 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The purpose of the Multicultural Advisory Committee (MAC) is to provide Council with advice and feedback on issues that affect multicultural, refugee and asylum seeker communities in the City of Port Phillip.
- 2.2 The inaugural Committee members were appointed in October 2019 and the first meeting was held in December 2019. The Committee members' cultural, linguistic, and religious backgrounds, as far as possible, represent the diversity within the Port Phillip community, including representatives from established communities, newly emerging communities, people seeking asylum, former refugees, and young people.
- 2.3 This report represents the third full year of activities of the Multicultural Advisory Committee, the delivery of their action plan, and highlights the breadth and depth of their work and achievements.
- 2.4 Highlights of the MAC's achievements in 2022 include:
  - 2.4.1 Advocacy leading to Council's signing a statement of commitment to the Welcoming Cities Standard in March.
  - 2.4.2 Oversight of programs for Cultural Diversity Week, Refugee Week and the inaugural Welcoming Week.
  - 2.4.3 Participating in the Smartphone Stories digital workshops.
  - 2.4.4 Input into a range of Council policies and plans, including the Council Plan and Budget and advocating for translation of key consultation and engagement documents.
  - 2.4.5 Recruitment of five new members to the MAC.

#### 3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 3.1 Receive the Multicultural Advisory Committee 2022 Annual Report
- 3.2 Acknowledge the work undertaken by the Committee, and formally recognise their advocacy and contribution to the City.

#### 4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

- 4.1 The 2021 Census records that 33.1 per cent of our residents were born outside of Australia and 21 per cent speak a language other than English at home (place of usual residence). Further characteristics of Port Phillip's multicultural community include:



- 4.1.1 The city is home to people from 163 different identified birthplaces speaking 114 different languages and dialects.
- 4.1.2 The top five languages spoken at home other than English are Greek, Mandarin, Spanish, Italian and Russian.
- 4.1.3 The largest non-English country of birth is India with 2.1 per cent (or 2,131 people) which is similar to 2016.
- 4.1.4 The proportion of our residents who are Australian citizens increased from 73 to 78 percent from the years 2016 to 2021.
- 4.1.5 More than 35,000 people born overseas are now living in our municipality. They have brought their many cultures and faiths, stories and experiences, food, and festivals.
- 4.2 The Multicultural Advisory Committee provides a valuable sounding board to Council through community consultations, programming and events, communication, and advocacy. Their representation in Council's planning, policies and strategies is part of the City of Port Phillip's inclusive practice and aligned to Council's Community Engagement Policy 2021.
- 4.3 Since its inception, the MAC has advocated for new initiatives, including Council's commitment to the Welcoming Cities Standard. Welcoming Cities sets a National Standard for cultural diversity and inclusion policy and practice in local government. There are over 200 member municipalities across the world with 72 in Australia. The MAC's advocacy acknowledges that a local council's understanding of the complexity and diversity of its residents can play an important role in creating welcoming communities.
- 4.4 The MAC Action Plan 2022 also delivered events for Cultural Diversity Week and Refugee Week and the inaugural Welcoming Week event in September.
- 4.5 In 2022 the MAC provided a multicultural and intersectional lens on a number of matters relating specifically to Council engagement and consultation including:
  - Council Budget review 2022/23
  - Consultation on the draft Positive Ageing Policy
  - Consultation on the draft LGBTIQ+ Action Plan
  - Act and Adapt climate emergency workshop
- 4.6 The MAC's advocacy also delivered improved communication and translations of changes to key Council services, and community engagement undertaken in languages other than English.

## **5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS**

- 5.1 The MAC comprises up to thirteen residents from diverse backgrounds and representatives of cultural organisations which provides a range of cultural and linguistically diverse voices and experiences.
- 5.2 In November 2022, Council appointed five new community members.
- 5.3 Council was represented by Councillor Tim Baxter throughout 2022.
- 5.4 The 2022 Annual Report is provided at Attachment 1 and outlines in more detail the contribution and advice provided to Council by the MAC, along with external parties, on issues impacting multicultural communities in the City of Port Phillip.



5.5 The Committee provided specific input into the following Council policies/plans:

- Council Budget review 2022/23
- Consultation on the draft Positive Ageing Policy
- Consultation on the draft LGBTIQA+ Action Plan
- Act and Adapt climate emergency workshop
- Draft Car Share Policy and Guidelines
- South Melbourne Structure Plan
- Dog Off Leash Guidelines
- Waste Strategy

5.6 General feedback was provided to Council regarding work directly related to Council business including translations and interpretation services and the featuring of diverse narratives in Council's communication.

## **6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 There are no known legal or risk implications.

## **7. FINANCIAL IMPACT**

7.1 Council's operational budget makes provision to support the running of the Multicultural Advisory Committee, including administration, light refreshments, events production, and translation/interpretation as needed. It also supports the delivery of programs for Cultural Diversity Week, Refugee Week and Welcoming Week.

## **8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

8.1 Multicultural Advisory Committee meeting documentation is produced, circulated, and presented digitally.

8.2 Events are run with recycled or biodegradable materials.

## **9. COMMUNITY IMPACT**

9.1 The Multicultural Advisory Committee provides a direct civic engagement opportunity for our multicultural community. It provides Council and its officers with relevant community views, knowledge, and advice, and builds on its local strengths to keep people informed and connected.

9.2 The MAC addresses Council's Well-Governed direction. Through the Committee, Council recognises and encourages community leadership, and seeks to maximise community feedback in its decision-making process. It improves public confidence through demonstrating active community participation in the decision-making process.

9.3 The MAC provides community engagement outcomes on issues impacting Council and multicultural communities.

9.4 The Annual Report demonstrates community engagement with issues faced by our multicultural communities around health, education, public safety, and human rights.

9.5 The Annual Report further shows engagement with a culturally vibrant community and works to create a sense of belonging and sharing of cultural experiences through events, arts, and storytelling.



**10. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY**

- 10.1 The work of the Multicultural Advisory Committee delivers on the Council Vision: *Proudly Port Phillip: A liveable and vibrant City that enhances the wellbeing of our community.*
- 10.2 The Committee aligns primarily with the Council Direction of Inclusive: *A City that is a place for all members of our community, where people feel supported and comfortable being themselves and expressing their identities.*
- 10.3 The Annual Report demonstrates the work of the Committee through their own eyes and how the community across the city benefits from their activity.

**11. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY**

**11.1 TIMELINE**

11.1.1 The outcome of this report will be presented to the July 2023 meeting of the Multicultural Advisory Committee and recorded in the minutes.

11.1.2 An Annual Report on activities undertaken in 2023 will be presented to Council in 2024.

**11.2 COMMUNICATION**

11.2.1 The outcome of this Council report will be communicated to the Committee and the 2022 Annual Report will be published on the Council website.

**12. OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST**

- 12.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any material or general interest in the matter.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- 1. Multicultural Advisory Committee 2022 Annual Report** [↓](#)