

# Multicultural Advisory Committee

## Annual Report 2022





## Contents

Council's vision and strategic direction.....	3
Our multicultural community	3
Multicultural Advisory Committee .....	3
Terms of Reference	3
Objectives	3
Membership	4
Action plan	6
The Welcoming Cities Standard	6
Good Governance	9
Outreach and engagement	9
Subcommittees and Working Groups	10
Consultation specific to Council business .....	10
Council Budget 2022/23 submission	10
Draft Positive Ageing Policy	12
Draft LGBTIQ+ Action Plan	12
Act & Adapt Climate Emergency Workshop	12
Draft Car Share Policy and Guidelines	12
South Melbourne Structure Plan	13
Dog Off Leash Guidelines	13
Waste Strategy	13
Matters affecting CALD communities .....	13
Addressing the digital divide at public housing estates	13
Activities and engagement with external groups and organisations	14
MAC programming and events.....	14
Cultural Diversity Week 2022	14
Refugee Week June 2022	15
Smartphone Stories	15
Welcoming Week 2022	16
MAC promotion and communication .....	17
Acknowledgement.....	17



## Council's vision and strategic direction

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.*

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.*

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.

## Our multicultural community

The City of Port Phillip is home to people from over 160 different identified birthplaces, speaking more than 120 different languages and dialects. One in three of Port Phillip's 103,507 residents was born overseas, 56 per cent have at least one parent who was born overseas and 21 per cent of Port Phillip residents speak a language other than English at home.

In 2018 Council endorsed the establishment of a Multicultural Advisory Committee (MAC). Formally commencing in 2019, the MAC has been the peak advisory and advocacy body on issues affecting multicultural, refugee or asylum seeker communities within the Port Phillip municipality.

The MAC has provided a valuable sounding board to council through community consultations, programming and events, communication, and advocacy.

## Multicultural Advisory Committee

### Terms of Reference

The purpose of the Multicultural Advisory Committee (MAC) is to assist Council by providing advice and feedback on all issues and opportunities that affect all multicultural communities in the City of Port Phillip. In 2022 the Multicultural Advisory Committee reviewed its Terms of Reference to include the Welcoming Cities Standard in its objectives.

### Objectives

The MAC aims:

- To be the peak advisory and advocacy body to Council on issues affecting multicultural communities including refugee and asylum seekers within the Port Phillip municipality.
- To provide advice to Council on its policies, plans and services that impact our multicultural communities.

- To actively support the value of Council's membership to The Welcoming Cities Standard – a National Standard for cultural diversity and inclusion policy and practice in local government to create communities where everyone can belong.
- To liaise with other organisations and networks that have a direct interest of multicultural communities including refugees or asylum seekers in City of Port Phillip.
- Consider and provide advice to Council on key government initiatives, issues, programs and reviews.
- Consider and make recommendations around funding and other opportunities as they may arise.
- Assist Council to promote the benefits of cultural diversity, social cohesion and inclusion of all residents within City of Port Phillip and beyond.
- Provide advice to Council with its communication, engagement and consultation with multicultural communities.
- Celebrate and raise awareness of the achievements and needs of multicultural communities.
- Facilitate and encourage opportunities for multicultural communities and community groups to work together on joint projects and initiatives.

The Committee meets monthly; during 2022 hybrid in person and online meetings were held.

## Membership



*Nine of the twelve members of the Multicultural Advisory Committee in December 2022*



The Committee's membership aims to reflect the diversity of the City of Port Phillip, including representatives from established communities, newly emerging communities, people seeking asylum, former refugees, and older and young people. To be eligible, Committee members must work in, or be a resident of, the City of Port Phillip and need to be able to demonstrate:

- Community networks and linkages within local multicultural, refugee or asylum seeker communities.
- A good knowledge and understanding of the local issues that are of relevance to our multicultural communities and a commitment to multiculturalism, and the strengthening of a diverse community that encourages the participation and inclusion of all residents.
- An ability to represent a broad range of views that reflect the diversity of the community.
- An ability to facilitate, negotiate and influence outcomes and resolve conflict.

In 2022 Council was represented by Councillor Tim Baxter. Georgina Tsolidis served as Chair and Hélène Kammoun as Deputy Chair.

Following changes to the MAC membership, a call out for new members was made and five new appointments to the Committee were made by Council.

In 2022 the following community members sat on the MAC:

<b>Members</b>	<b>Position</b>
Georgina Tsolidis	Chair
Hélène Kammoun	Deputy Chair
Wellington Bertalha	Committee member (to August)
Alba Chliakhtine	Committee member
Joshua Goodman	Pool member (from November)
Alex Kats	Committee member (from November)
Tina Khabbazian Zanjani	Committee member
Altaf Ali Mohammed	Committee member
Tanvi Mor	Committee member (from November)
Leonardo Pereira	Pool member (from November)
Masi Perozi	Committee member (from November)
Keir Semenov	Committee member (from November)
James Seow	Committee member
Naomi Sherborne	Committee member
Vasileios Tsialtas	Committee member

## Action plan

Each year the MAC develops an Action Plan in response to the objectives in its Terms of Reference and aligned to key outcomes outlined in the Council Plan 2017-2027, and the Welcoming Cities Standard.

This Action Plan is reviewed regularly to ensure it meets its objectives and that it continues to work for the interests of our multicultural community. Ongoing priorities of the MAC in 2022 were to:

- provide feedback and advice on Council policies, plans and consultations
- advocate for Council's involvement in the Welcoming Cities Network
- oversee Cultural Diversity Week, Refugee Week and Welcoming Week events
- present narratives that communicate positive migrant stories and positive contributions
- advocate for improved communications to the city's multicultural communities.

These priorities align with the Council Plan Directions 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.

**Vibrant:** A City that has a flourishing economy, where our community and local businesses thrive, and we maintain and enhance our reputation as one of Melbourne's cultural and creative hubs.

**Well-Governed:** A City that is a leading local government authority, where our community and our organisation are in a better place as a result of our collective efforts.

## The Welcoming Cities Standard

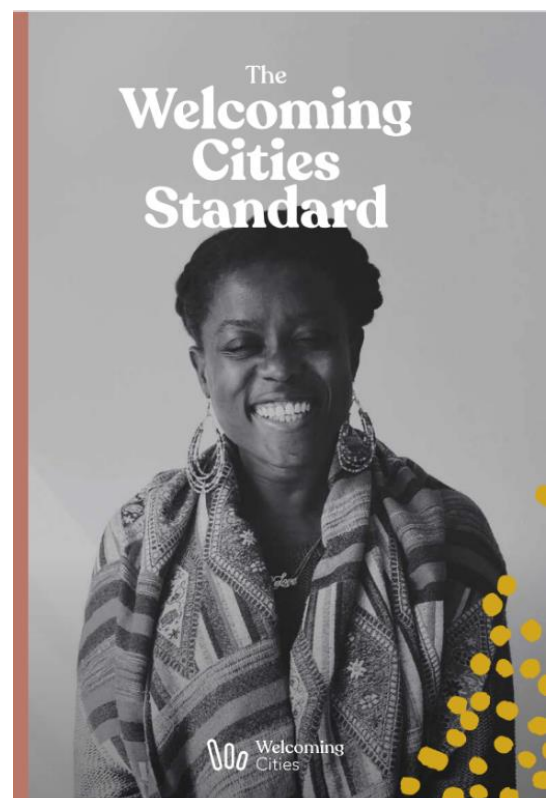
The Welcoming Cities Standard sets a National Standard for cultural diversity and inclusion policy and practice in local government, helping to create communities where everyone can belong. There are over 250 member municipalities across the world with seventy-two in Australia.

In March 2022, at the request of the MAC, a Notice of Motion (NOM) was presented to Council by Councillor Tim Baxter in support of the City of Port Phillip signing a statement of commitment to Welcoming Cities.

The NOM stated:

*That Council commit to join and participate in the Welcoming Cities Network at free member status.*

*Authorise the Mayor and CEO to sign and submit the Welcoming Cities commitment form to the Welcoming Cities Network.*





*In agreeing to become a member of the Welcoming Cities Network, support greater understanding of how Council might strengthen its capacity to work alongside the many cultural groups living within this community, and support a more cohesive approach to migration, settlement and belonging.*

The MAC spoke in support of this motion, and it was carried by eight votes and one abstention.

The MAC's advocacy for inclusion acknowledges that a local council's understanding of the complexity and diversity of their communities can play a significant role in creating welcoming communities, as brokers and leaders within their community.

The Standard establishes the framework for local Councils to:

- Benchmark their cultural diversity, inclusion policies and practices across the organisation.
- Identify where and how further efforts could be directed.
- Evaluate progress over time.

The Standard allows Council to assess its current activity against six categories: Leadership, Social and Cultural Inclusion, Economic Development, Learning and Skills Development, Civic Development, and Places and Spaces. The MAC has incorporated these six categories into its Action Plan alongside the Council Plan Directions:

### **Leadership**

- Respectfully acknowledge Traditional Owners at each meeting, event and program.
- Work toward Port Phillip becoming part of Welcoming Cities.
- Provide robust advice to Council regarding draft policy, plans and strategies and seek feedback on the impact of that advice.
- Oversight and implementation of Council's participation in the *All One Together* Anti-Racism Campaign.

### **Social and Cultural Inclusion**

- Promote cultural exchange and social connection through events and programs such as Cultural Diversity Week, Refugee Week and Welcoming Week.
- Take on an intersectionality lens to diversity and inclusion.
- Advocate and assist with the development of a multicultural communications plan that includes languages and strategies that are suitable for specific target groups within the community.

### **Economic Development**

- Advocate for Council to encourage immersion and inclusion programs.
- Facilitate information provision for newly arrived migrants.

### **Learning and Skills Development**

- Work collaboratively with Council's Library Services to influence programming for migrants.

### Civic Participation

- Review calendar action days and celebrations to align with Action Plan.
- Support local community groups in cultural celebrations and sharing stories.

### Places and Spaces

- Enable the use of public spaces and facilities by people who represent the diversity of the community.

Ongoing commitments of the MAC include:

- consideration and interest in understanding intersectionality
- development and integration of an annual calendar.
- sharing of community and sector information
- regular review of the Action Plan

## Multicultural Advisory Committee Action Plan 2022

	Actions 2021/2022	Council Plan	Welcoming City Category
1	Provides advice on key Council policy and frameworks, with priority given to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diversity and Inclusion framework</li> <li>• Community facilities policy</li> <li>• Housing and homelessness</li> <li>• Employment policies</li> <li>• Council's Heritage review, Living Heritage Program and Heritage Recognition</li> <li>• Economic development</li> <li>• Social procurement</li> </ul>	Inclusive Port Phillip, Well-Governed Port Phillip	Leadership
2	Advocate Council adopts and updates key multicultural policies including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcoming Cities framework (Assessment &amp; Accreditation - Commitment)</li> <li>• Multicultural Statement of Commitment</li> <li>• "All One Together" anti-racism campaign</li> </ul>	Inclusive Port Phillip, Well-Governed Port Phillip	Leadership
3	Advocate a Council run Aboriginal walking tour in St Kilda targeting newly arrived migrants	Inclusive Port Phillip	Leadership
4	Facilitate community feedback using a range of methods including a forum, telephone trees, on-line focus groups, with the aim of learning what are the current community experiences and needs.	Inclusive Port Phillip, Well-Governed Port Phillip	Leadership
5	Present narratives that communicate positive migrant stories and contributions (e.g. Smartphone Stories).	Inclusive Port Phillip, Vibrant Port Phillip	Leadership
6	Advocate and assist with the development of a multicultural communications plan that includes languages and strategies that are suitable for specific target groups within the community.	Inclusive Port Phillip	Social and Cultural Inclusion
7	Facilitate a Migrant Information Day or on-line forum that provides information to new migrants.	Inclusive Port Phillip, Well-Governed Port Phillip	Social and Cultural Inclusion
8	Running on-line sessions targeting CALD communities, including older people, regarding vaccination information. This needs to include information about possible future exclusions for the unvaccinated.	Inclusive Port Phillip, Vibrant Port Phillip	Social and Cultural Inclusion
9	Promote cultural exchange and social connection: events and programs (e.g. arts, culture, heritage, social, sports) such as Cultural Diversity Week and Refugee Week	Inclusive Port Phillip, Vibrant Port Phillip	Social and Cultural Inclusion
10	Input into Council's social and economic recovery response in relation to emerging needs (financial stress, mental health, social isolation and grief and loss) and issues for multicultural communities.	Inclusive Port Phillip, Liveable Port Phillip	Social and Cultural Inclusion
11	Work collaboratively with Council library services to influence programming for migrants.	Vibrant Port Phillip	Learning and Development
12	Advocate for the development of multilingual signage, including through sponsorship. Explore the possibility of engaging the arts community in the creation of such signage.	Vibrant Port Phillip	Places and Spaces
13	Enable the use of public spaces and facilities by people who represent the diversity of the community.	Inclusive Port Phillip, Liveable Port Phillip	Places and Spaces

MAC Action Plan alignment to Council Plan and Welcoming Cities



## Good Governance

As part of the MAC's commitment to good governance, an annual report is presented each year to Council. The 2021 Annual Report was presented in October 2022 and spoken to by the Chair and Deputy Chair. Councillors Baxter and Martin moved that Council receive the Multicultural Advisory Committee's Annual Report 2021, acknowledge the work undertaken by the Committee and formally recognise their advocacy and contribution to the City. These motions were carried unanimously.

The work of the MAC also addresses Council's Direction of Well-Governed. Through the Committee, Council recognises and encourages community leadership, and seeks to maximise community feedback. This improves public confidence through demonstrating active community participation in Council decision-making processes.

## Outreach and engagement

The Committee visited the Victorian Pride Centre and enjoyed a tour around the prize-winning building led by Bree McKilligan.

Members attended the Victorian Multicultural Commission's annual Gala to represent the Committee and its work.

This year the Federation of Ethnic Communities Council Australia conference was held in Melbourne and was attended by members representing their communities, and the Chair representing the MAC. The MAC attendees noted the following in their report back to the committee:



- the Uluru statement was a key issue and CALD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse) communities have been asked to walk the journey with First Nations
- multicultural mental health was a priority
- governments are focusing on the need for data
- diversity within the multicultural community is valued and there is recognition that 'one size fits all' model is not appropriate, especially with ageing multicultural populations
- active support of anti-racism messaging is vital as racism does exist within multicultural communities
- focus on intercultural understanding
- there was support for younger people to attend who brought a fresh energy
- cultural diversity within the attendees and presenters was noted.

The MAC was represented at the Social Good Summit Australia, a United Nations-affiliated event that connects individuals, corporations, not-for-profits, government, and grassroots organisations, to inspire and discuss solutions to improve connections and create a sustainable future.

In 2022, the following topics were presented to the MAC by Council officers:

- Migration trends
- Gender Equity Act and Council requirements
- 2021 census data
- Draft LGBTIQ+ Action Plan

## Subcommittees and Working Groups

The following MAC working groups/subcommittees were established:

- Cultural Diversity Week Working Group
- Smartphone Stories Working Group / Digital Stories Subcommittee
- Council Plan and Budget 2022 Working Group
- Terms of Reference review Working Group
- Welcoming Cities Subcommittee
- Events Subcommittee

## Consultation specific to Council business

Council recognises the value of community committees as noted in the Council Plan: “We will partner with our Older Persons Advisory Committee, Youth Advisory Committee, Multicultural Advisory Committee, Multi-Faith Network, LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee and establish other committees, where relevant, to ensure the diversity of our community’s experience is represented in decision-making.”

The Committee provided input into the following Council documents:

- 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
- Draft Car Share Policy and Guidelines
- South Melbourne Structure Plan
- Dog Off Leash Guidelines
- Waste Strategy

## Council Budget 2022/23 submission

In 2022 the MAC submitted a budget request comprising three priorities to support its work and engagement with the City’s CALD communities:

- An increase in the funding available to support Council's cultural diversity work through programming and activities.
- A communication strategy that highlights the strengths of cultural diversity.
- Support for ageing residents who are from CALD communities.

Each of these priorities was evidenced-based and supported by consultation across the Committee:

The MAC welcomed the priority that was given to inclusivity within the Committee's remit of a culturally, linguistically, religiously and ethnically diverse community. It noted, however, that making the City of Port Phillip truly inclusive required investment. Funding needed to reflect the make-up of CoPP residents (i.e. 30% residents born overseas who may require specific cultural inclusion programs – or up to 51% including residents with at least one parent born overseas).

The MAC noted that only 8.6% of the Inclusive portfolio budget is spent on cultural diversity, despite this program's potential to benefit between 30 to 50% of residents (and more if other aspects of diversity supported by this service are included such as LGBTIQ+, faith and so on). This seems to contrast with other aspects of 'Inclusion' as described by the Council (for example the Recreation services seemed to reach around 20% of residents but receives 18% of the Inclusive portfolio budget).

The MAC noted there should be investment in a communication strategy that highlights the strengths of cultural diversity. This should be an on-going feature on the Council website and showcase community members and organisations. Funding for the development of short videos, for example, should have a separate and on-going financial allocation. A communication and language strategy needs to account for non-English language speakers, those not literate, and those who need support because of various disabilities. The successful implementation of Council priorities, for example, those related to the environment, need to be understood by all residents.

The MAC set priorities that increase the visibility of diversity and highlight intersectionality. The Committee believe strongly that social cohesion is a product of understanding and sharing experiences across our many communities. This is a proactive way of combatting racism.

Bringing communities and individuals, who can often remain in the shadows, towards Council and its activities, serves to strengthen the Council's reach. It enhances the Council's ability to understand, communicate and represent the full gamut of the CoPP's residency. Further to this, it enables those who may not be from minorities to learn about diverse experiences.

The MAC believes that some of our most vulnerable residents are those who are ageing and from ethnic minorities. These are residents who may have migrated in the 1960s, now in their 70s or 80s. They may also be residents with more recent migration histories. Such people may or may not speak English. They may not be confidently literate in any language and many remain digitally illiterate. The lockdowns have illustrated most poignantly these people's vulnerability to isolation.

The MAC understands that CoPP has a range of strategies in place but its concern is that these vulnerable groups may fall between the cracks. So often data is not sensitive to intersections between categories, so for example, a housing strategy for older women may not cater for those who do not speak English.

The MAC sought specific funding that can facilitate understanding the needs of these communities towards a fuller integration into existing or specific programmes.

The Chair and Deputy Chair spoke in support of the MAC's budget submission at the June Council meeting.

## Draft Positive Ageing Policy

The MAC nominated three members to join members from the Older Persons Advisory Committee to form a steering committee for the development of this policy.

It was understood that this policy sits as a Council Plan commitment to recognise the diversity of the City's older community in both backgrounds and identity. MAC members provided insights as to how the Positive Ageing Policy can ensure older people from multicultural backgrounds can thrive and contribute to community. The MAC supported the distribution of the consultation survey in multiple languages.



### Βοηθήστε να διαμορφώσουμε την πολιτική για τα θετικά γηρατειά στο Δήμο Port Phillip

Ο Δήμος αναγνωρίζει ότι οι ηλικιωμένοι αποτελούν ένα σημαντικό, πολύτιμο και αυξανόμενο ποσοστό του πληθυσμού μας και ότι οι ανάγκες και οι εμπειρίες των ηλικιωμένων είναι ποικιλόμορφες. Σύμφωνα με τις τάσεις σε ολόκληρη την Αυστραλία, ο πληθυσμός μας γερνάει. Το 2021, περισσότερα από 19.000 άτομα ηλικίας 60 ετών και άνω που κατοικούσαν στο Δήμο Port Phillip αντιπροσώπευαν το 19 τοις εκατό του πληθυσμού μας.

## Draft LGBTIQ+ Action Plan

David Demmer, a member of the LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee, presented to the MAC on the draft LGBTIQ+ Action Plan. He outlined the principles, strategic directions, and plan process, and advised that it would be presented to Council for endorsement in mid-2023. The MAC noted the intersectionality/ connectivity for those migrants and refugees who had fled their home countries because of LGBTIQ+ oppression.

## Act & Adapt Climate Emergency Workshop

MAC members attended the Act & Adapt and Climate Emergency Workshop. The MAC advocates for the needs of multicultural communities around communication and access to information.

## Draft Car Share Policy and Guidelines

The MAC was given the opportunity to speak with Council's consultants on this policy and provide input into what barriers may inhibit people's use of share cars, and how access can be improved. The MAC provided feedback around cost and access, promotion and communication, and future use of electric vehicles.

## South Melbourne Structure Plan

Council was seeking feedback on a shared vision for the area, what constitutes quality public space, what would enhance South Melbourne as a destination, and ideas for the future design of quality buildings. The MAC advocated for principles of universal design for accessibility, coverings for people walking between public transport and shops, communal vegetable gardens to build community, provide more green space and give people access to gardening, improved building insulation for efficient and economic heating/cooling, consideration of issues of wind tunnels and shade when considering height of new buildings and improved use of open spaces.

## Dog Off Leash Guidelines

The MAC considered the dog off leash guidelines and the sharing of public spaces such as beaches and parks. The MAC noted that there are concerns around irresponsible dog owners. It was also noted that there are community members fearful of dogs including some children, some elderly residents and those for whom there are cultural reasons for fearing dogs.

## Waste Strategy

The MAC raised concerns about how changes to services were being communicated in languages other than English, and the impact of charges for people proportionate to their income, such as refugees and asylum seekers.

As a result of this advocacy, information about the FOGO rollout was distributed in six languages.

This message is about your new food and garden organics recycling service. To find out more in your language please call TIS on 13 14 50 and ask for the City of Port Phillip on 03 9209 6777.

Este mensaje le informa sobre el nuevo servicio de reciclaje de restos de alimentos y residuos orgánicos de jardín. Para obtener más información en su idioma, llame a TIS al 13 14 50 y pida que le comuniquen con la Municipalidad de Port Phillip (City of Port Phillip en inglés) en el 03 9209 6777.

本信息是关于您新的厨余和园艺有机垃圾回收服务。如需更多中文信息，请拨打 13 14 50 联系 TIS，要求与 City of Port Phillip 通话，电话：03 9209 6777。

Pesanan ini adalah tentang makanan perkhidmatan kitaran semula makanan dan bahan-bahan organik taman anda. Untuk mendapatkan maklumat lanjut dalam bahasa anda sila hubungi TIS di 13 14 50 dan minta untuk disambungkan ke City of Port Phillip di 03 9209 6777.

Эта информация о новых услугах по переработке пищевых и садовых органических отходов. Чтобы получить более подробную информацию на своем родном языке, позвоните в службу переводчиков TIS по тел. 13 14 50 и попросите соединить вас с муниципалитетом Port Phillip по тел. 03 9209 6777.

Αυτό το μήνυμα αφορά τη νέα σας υπηρεσία ανακύκλωσης τροφίμων και οργανικών απορριμμάτων του κήπου. Για περισσότερες πληροφορίες στη γλώσσα σας, καλέστε το TIS στο 13 14 50 και ζητήστε να σας συνδέσουν με το Δήμο Port Phillip στο 03 9209 6777.

זו הודעה על שירות מיחזור המזון ופסולת גינה החדש שכם. לפרטים נוספים בשפה העברית אנא התקשרו לשירות התרגומים (טיס) בטלפון 131450 ובקשו את העיר פורט פיליפ בטלפון 03 9209 6777

## Matters affecting CALD communities

The MAC identified the following issues which impact CALD communities within the City:

### Addressing the digital divide at public housing estates

The digital divide in public housing estates was raised at the first online meeting held by the Committee in March 2020, in response to support services moving towards virtual provision.

Feedback from the Committee was used by Council to submit several funding applications that supported digital inclusion of multicultural seniors and families residing in Park Towers and Emerald Hill Court estates.

## Activities and engagement with external groups and organisations

In 2022, the MAC directly, and through its membership, continued relationships with the following external groups and organisations:

- [Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria](#)
- [Welcoming Cities Australia](#)
- [Victorian Multicultural Commission Regional Advisory Council](#)
- [Multicultural Women Victoria](#)
- [Glow Up Careers social enterprise](#)

## MAC programming and events

### Cultural Diversity Week 2022

The following events were held, attended or supported during Cultural Diversity Week from 19 to 27 March 2022.

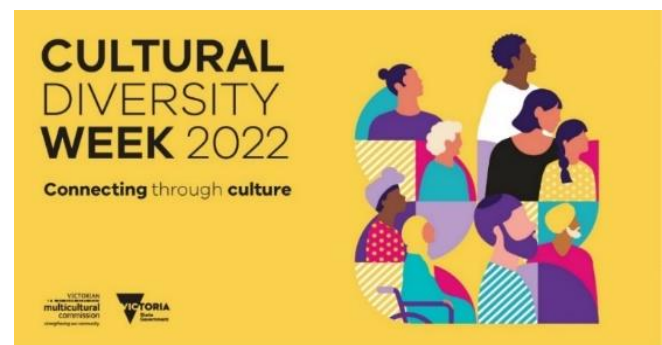
City of Port Phillip signed the Commitment Statement for Welcoming Cities and joined this network.

Three MAC members attended the Victorian Multicultural Commission gala dinner.

Three special pre-school shows with cultural infusion were held at the Port Phillip Library Service branches including Bollywood Dance, Kung Fu Panda and African Drumming.

Council supported the annual Space2b Laneway Festival through the Local Festivals Fund.

The Women's Circle at Park Towers ran a cultural celebrations event at Park Towers which included a global food barbeque, cultural presentations, country-of-origin dress and children's activities.



Cross cultural training was delivered for the aged care sector focussing on needs and challenges faced by ethnic seniors during COVID-19 and steps for a positive road ahead. Guest speakers included Chinese Community Social Services Centre, National Council of Jewish Women and the Federation of Greek Elderly Citizen Clubs of Melbourne and Victoria.

The MAC-initiated City of Port Phillip staff bystander training by the Jewish Community Council of Victoria and Courage to Care was delivered as part of Council's Learning and Development calendar.

These Cultural Diversity Week activities were supported by a social media campaign.

## Refugee Week June 2022

Refugee week featured a video of Kamal Ibrahim, a previous MAC member, talking about his experience of moving to Port Phillip as a refugee. Kamal shared his connection to Port Melbourne and the work he has done to set up One Ball Inc, a community program designed for children and young adults, which provides opportunities for all people, especially those from CALD backgrounds, across Melbourne to play soccer in a social setting.

Council's *Refugees Welcome Here* banner was hung in the St Kilda Town Hall.



## Smartphone Stories

The MAC promoted the City's recent Smartphone Stories workshop to local CALD community members and members were also keen participants. The initial community digital storytelling session was held in June with eleven participants. A refresher workshop was held in November.

Smartphone Stories is a fun, interactive project that teaches participants ways to tell stories. Whether a comedy, drama or documentary, participants learn the skills to produce, write, direct and edit a film made entirely on a mobile phone.

The City of Port Phillip was awarded a VicHealth Art of Good Health Everyday Partnership Grant as lead LGA to deliver twenty-four Smartphone Stories workshops, run by Cinespace, across Victoria from 2021-22.

With its new-found skills, the Multicultural Advisory Committee has plans to make more films, train others and build a story-bank of Port Phillip's diverse multicultural residents. This ambition will upskill the community and create a narrative library of our residents and their experiences.

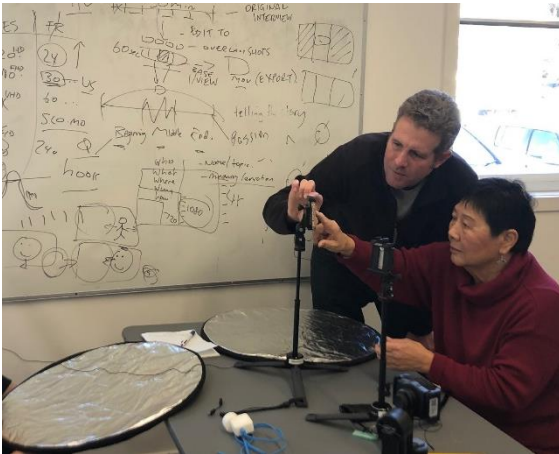


VicHealth



This project has been assisted by VicHealth - Everyday Community Partnership grant and the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body

As a Covid-recovery project, this activity contributes to health and wellbeing by reducing social isolation, building self-esteem and strengthening community connection through accessible filmmaking practices.



Smartphones stories workshop June 2022

## Welcoming Week 2022

The MAC coordinated an event as part of Welcoming Cities' inaugural Welcoming Week from 9 to 18 September. Welcoming Week is an annual international campaign that celebrates communities that strive to be more welcoming of all people, including migrants, refugees, people seeking asylum and international students.



Community members joined Cr Tim Baxter, Georgina Tsolidis MAC Chair and H el ene Kammoun Deputy Chair, at Space2b on Thursday 15 September to enjoy a performance by First Nations artist John Wayne Parsons and catering by Flavours of Syria. In this way, Council's signing of the Statement of Commitment to Welcoming Cities was celebrated.

A Welcome postcard was developed in consultation with the MAC for distribution at Citizenship ceremonies.





## MAC promotion and communication

The multicultural pages on the City of Port Phillip’s website were updated following feedback from the MAC.

The MAC also initiated communication with Council’s Sustainability and Waste team to assist with the rollout of the FOGO bins and to ensure communication in multiple languages.

The Committee’s details and further information can be found of the City of Port Phillip website at [Multicultural community - The City of Port Phillip](#).

### Cultural diversity in Port Phillip



#### Multicultural Advisory Committee

Providing advice and feedback to Council on all multicultural communities.



#### Port Phillip Multifaith Network

Comprises representatives and leaders from a variety of religions and faith groups in the City.



#### Welcoming Cities

Welcoming Cities supports local councils to become more welcoming and inclusive of their diverse communities.



#### New residents

Find all the information you need if you’re moving into, or around, the City of Port Phillip.



#### Refugees and asylum seekers

Support and information for asylum seekers and refugees in Port Phillip.



#### Australian citizenship

How to become an Australian citizen and information about citizenship ceremonies in the City of Port Phillip.

## Acknowledgement

The Multicultural Advisory Committee would like to acknowledge Cr Tim Baxter, the Council delegate to the MAC, for his ongoing support and commitment throughout the year.

Thanks are extended to Wellington Bertalha, outgoing member, in 2022.

This annual report was prepared with, and endorsed by, the Multicultural Advisory Committee.