

Minutes of 2015 Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria Annual General Meeting

Date:	24 November 2015
Time:	6.10pm-7.37pm
Place:	Statewide Resources Centre, Level 2, 150 Palmerston Street, Carlton VIC 3053

Item	Description
1	<p>Election of 14 Board members for the 2016-2018 term</p> <p>The order of items on the proposed agenda was rearranged so that agenda item 3 election of board was firstly dealt with.</p> <p>Eddie Micallef, Chairperson, introduced the Returning Officer (Carlo Carli) to explain the procedure for conducting election for ECCV Board of Directors as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A random draw had taken place to work out the order the candidates' names appear on the ballot paper. • Members who were entitled to vote could cast their votes until 6.30pm (until 6.40pm at the latest). • He had appointed two scrutineers to observe the counting of the votes. Carlo also asked for more volunteers to act as scrutineers. • He said he would be back to announce the names of the elected board members.
2	<p>Welcome and Apologies</p> <p>Eddie Micallef opened the meeting by acknowledging the Wurundjeri people as the traditional owners of the land on which the meeting took place. He also welcomed all members and guests present. Eddie Micallef expressed disappointment that the new Chairperson of the Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC), Ms Helen Kapalos, could not be present to meet ECCV members and community leaders as she had been doubled booked. However, Eddie Micallef, was very pleased to have Mr Ross Alatsas, the Deputy Chairperson of the VMC as a guest speaker.</p> <p>The Chairperson acknowledged those who could not attend the AGM and had sent their apologies. Please refer to attachments for attendance and apologies list (appendices 1 and 2).</p>

3	<p>Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting</p> <p>The Chairperson called for a motion that the Minutes of the previous AGM be confirmed.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="403 287 2004 327"> <tr> <td data-bbox="403 287 1209 327">Moved</td> <td data-bbox="1209 287 1612 327">Sam Afra – Deputy Chairperson</td> <td data-bbox="1612 287 2004 327">Seconded</td> <td data-bbox="2004 287 2016 327">Dr Helen Light</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: right;">Passed</p>	Moved	Sam Afra – Deputy Chairperson	Seconded	Dr Helen Light
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4	<p>Chairperson’s report</p> <p>Below are the main points from the Chairperson’s report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECCV celebrated its 40th Anniversary in 2014. • ECCV participated in the FECCA 2015 National Biennial Conference. The Chairperson acknowledged the fact that Victoria was well represented in the FECCA Executive Committee (Joseph Caputo re-elected as Chairperson, Eugenia Grammatikakis elected as Senior Deputy Chairperson, Parsuram Sharma-Luital as Secretary). • He reiterated the important role that ECCV had been playing in representing the interests of multicultural communities (220 individuals and community groups). • ECCV launched its Strategic Plan 2015-2020 (available on the ECCV’s website). • The Chairperson highlighted the fact that the Board members worked cohesively and strategically to advocate ECCV members. He also acknowledged the support received from other Board members, particularly the Officer bearers to carry his leadership function. The Chairperson congratulated Mr Sundram Sivamalai (ECCV regional representative) on his appointment as the new Community Representative Commissioner (a position created by the previous government). • The Chairperson renewed calls to support (financially) Australia’s multicultural policy which is held in high regard as a model for successfully attracting and welcoming immigrants as part of community building (he quoted the French Ambassador’s statement on ABC Q&A program). • The Chairperson thanked Doug McLaughlin who will not be standing for re-election as a Board member, for his contribution and efforts to the organisation. • ECCV made submissions in response to several inquiries and consultations (e.g. the Royal Commission into Family Violence; the National Consultation on Citizenship). The Chairperson expressed concerns about citizenship reform that aims to increase the government’s power to strip a national of their citizenship. • ECCV released a policy discussion paper called ‘<i>Qualified but not recognised</i>’. • Palliative Care project was successfully completed. This project (along with health literacy) had been of particular interest to the Chairperson due to his involvement and project’s aim which was to link communities to services. • He also reported the advocacy activities he had been involving in and his participation in ECCV and Victorian Commission for Children and Young People CALD Strategic Partnership Advisory Committee (as a Co-Chair), Victoria Police Multi-Faith Council and Health Services Review Council. • The Chairperson renewed calls for help in ECCV’s search for new premises. 				

5	<p>Executive Officer's report</p> <p>Below are the key points of the Executive Officer's report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The financial year 2014-2015 was a year of delivery targets and a good deal of capacity building. • There were several meetings with ministers and government officials. • The Refugee Week was jointly organised by ECCV and Multicultural Arts Victoria (MAV). • The Walter Lippmann Memorial Oration took place and the Hon. Michael Kirby was the speaker. • A significant number of media releases were issued. • ECCV has been very vocal in its criticism of children in detention. • 21 policy submissions were made. • ECCV has been working in collaboration with FECCA in the areas of aged care reform and employment. • Multicultural Aged Care Services Directory went online (http://www.macsd.org.au/). • Four discussion papers were produced. • Two quick-response social cohesion policy briefs focusing on discrimination were released. • ECCV gave 10 presentations at various forums/events. • 8 forums (as part of Futures Project and Capacity Building for New and Emerging Communities) were organised. • The following partnership projects have been carried (some completed, some under way) – Futures project; Elder Abuse project; Palliative Care project; Multicultural Communities Energy Education project and Business Energy Smart Tips project (a booklet offering information on energy saving opportunities). • The Executive Officer extended thanks to all ECCV staff, Bilingual Educators, Intern, Sonja for making the evening a success. • She also thanked members, stakeholders, OMAC and funders. <p>The Chairperson asked if there were questions on the EO's report and then called for a motion that it be confirmed.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="405 1018 2016 1054"> <tr> <td>Moved</td> <td>Joe Caputo (FECCA Chairperson)</td> <td>Seconded</td> <td>Dr Christine Lee</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: right;">Passed</p>	Moved	Joe Caputo (FECCA Chairperson)	Seconded	Dr Christine Lee
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6	<p>Treasurer's report</p> <p>The financial highlights for the year 2014-2015 are presented below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It has been a pleasure performing my duties as a Treasurer (my second year). • Total income - \$1,412,844 / total expenditure – \$1,461,756 / Deficit - \$48,912 • The financial position of the organisation is sound despite the deficit. • The Treasurer offered two reasons why this deficit occurred – high staff turnover and increased occupancy costs (as tenants moved out, 				

	<p>ECCV's share of the costs increased).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECCV has seen an increase (25%) in its core funding levels (from Victoria's government). • Acknowledged the smooth transition from the old guard to the new one and thanked Ross Barnett for the brilliant job he did and Dr Irene Bouzo for stepping smoothly into the position of EO. • The Treasurer also thanked Eddie Micallef (the Chairperson), the rest of the Board members and staff. <p>The Chairperson asked if there were questions on the Treasurer's report and then called for a motion that it be confirmed.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="405 443 2018 483"> <tr> <td>Moved</td> <td>Helena Trinnick</td> <td>Seconded</td> <td>Doug McLaughlin</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: right;">Passed</p>	Moved	Helena Trinnick	Seconded	Doug McLaughlin
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6.1	<p>Appointment of Auditor</p> <p>The Chairperson proposed the appointment of a new Auditor.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="405 643 2018 683"> <tr> <td>Moved</td> <td>Helena Trinnick</td> <td>Seconded</td> <td>Mahinda Wickramasuriya</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: right;">Passed</p>	Moved	Helena Trinnick	Seconded	Mahinda Wickramasuriya
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7	<p>Guest speakers – Mr Ross Alatsas (Depute Chairperson of the Victorian Multicultural Commission) and Denise Francisco (Manager Community Strengthening at the Office of Multicultural and Citizenship –OMAC)</p> <p>Following are the main points of the first guest speaker's speech:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He started acknowledging the Traditional Owners of the land on which the meeting was held. • He also acknowledged Joe Caputo (FECCA Chairperson) and Eddie Micallef (ECCV Chairperson) for their significant efforts to promote multiculturalism. • He thanked Irene Bouzo for her warm welcome and hospitality. • He congratulated Sundram Sivamalai on his appointment as the new Community Representative Commissioner. • He welcomed the community leaders • He recognised the fact that Australia was not perfect but efforts had been made to ensure that migrants and refugees were welcomed and provided with smooth settlement experiences. • Mr Alatsas shared his family's migration experience. His parents migrated to Australia in the early 1950s. They had determination and will power to succeed and make Australia their home. They are proud to be Greek Australians and have fully embraced their adopted country. Mr Alatsas also said that he grew up in a family where everyone appreciated and valued the Australian National Anthem. • He recognised the fact that newly arrived communities needed support. • He encouraged communities to come and work together, make Australia their home. • VMC is an independent statutory authority established under the Multicultural Victoria Act 2011. • It is led by 12 Commissioners 				

- VMC organises community consultations to gather and collate information. It then passes them to relevant government agencies to act upon it.
- VMC supports communities through grants administered by OMAC but ratified by VMC.
- VMC offers Multicultural Awards for Excellence to people who contribute to their communities.
- VMC coordinates Cultural Diverse Week (CDW) and encourages communities to hold their own events.
- He concluded his speech by thanking outgoing ECCV Board members.

Eddie Micallef thanked Mr Ross Alatsas and gave him a small gift as a token of ECCV appreciation. He then proceeded to introduce Denise Francisco, Manager Community Strengthening at OMAC, to present the Multicultural Grant Program Funding Consolidation. The main points of her presentation are as follows:

- Existing 13 grant programs consolidated into four-based broad programs – Multicultural Festivals and Events, Community Infrastructure and Culture Precincts, Promoting Community Harmony and Capacity Building and Participation.
- Two new programs – Multicultural Media (Applications closed for 2015-2016) and CALD Family Violence Program (Subject to the outcomes and recommendations of the Royal Commission into Family Violence).
- Expected outcomes of the implementations of these programs – maximise the benefits of Victoria’s Diversity, build community capacity and participation, support economic and social inclusion, promote social cohesion and community resilience, bridge cultures and difference, promote human rights and equality and support diversity of gender and sexuality.
- Government priorities are – economic participation and access to employment, equality, diversity of gender and sexuality, improving access and participation of women and young people and family violence.
- OMAC is responsible for administering multicultural funding programs.
- The Community Strengthening (CS) within OMAC is the point of contact for community groups and organisations.
- The role of the CS is to assist community organisations to navigate the processes.
- A panel of representatives of the VMC, OMAC and external experts assesses applications and make recommendation to Government.
- Recommendations are considered and ratified by the VMC prior to Minister’s consideration.
- Four priority programs are at various stages of implementation and are being progressed as a matter of urgency;
 - Multicultural Senior Citizens Organisation Support Grants 2016-2019 (applications closed on 4/9/2015) - recommendations to Minister will be made November/early December (followed by announcements).
 - Multicultural Media Grants 2015-2016 only (applications closed) - recommendations to Minister will be made November/early December (followed by announcements).
 - Multicultural Festivals and Events (January-June 2016 – guidelines are in the process to be finalised and priority recommendations will be made to Minister very soon for events taken place in early 2016 (followed by announcements). The remaining recommendations will be put to Minister early 2016 (followed by announcements).
 - Multicultural Community Infrastructure Fund for small capital infrastructure projects – guidelines are being finalised and recommendations will be made to Minister Feb/early March 2016 (followed by announcements).
- For proposed timelines, please refer to appendix 3 - PowerPoint presentation slide number 11.

8	<p>Announcement of elected Board members for the 2016-2018 term</p> <p>The Returning Officer announced the names of elected Board members for the 2016-2018 term.</p> <p>The new Board members are Sundram Sivamalai, Parsuram Sharma-Luitai, Christine Lee, Joe Caputo, Sam Afra, Moses Adepoju, Helena Trinnick, Apollo Nsubuga-Kyobe, Bruna Pasqua, Peter Mousaferiadis, Helen Olga Light, Marion Lau, Mahinda Wickramasuriya, and Eddie Micallef.</p> <p>The Chairperson thanked the Returning Officer and gave him a gift. He also thanked the elected Board members and those who missed out</p>
9	<p>Life Membership Award</p> <p>The Chairperson announced the name of the recipient of the Life Membership Award – Mr Ton Westerveld. The award recognises the outstanding contributions of individual to multicultural communities. The Chairperson informed the meeting’s attendees of the fact that Mr Westerveld had been the first Chairperson of the ECC Committee for the Ethnic Aged. The key points of Mr Ton Westerveld’s speech are presented below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He acknowledged the tremendous support he had received from his wife (an important partner). • He talked about the challenges he had encountered to get support for seniors from a non-English speaking background. • He acknowledged people who had been instrumental in his advocacy efforts, among whom were Bruna Pasqua (long association with ECCV) and Walter Lippmann. • Mr Westerveld suggested the idea of having a student studying sociology to undertake the history and achievements of the ethnic aged-care sector. • He also thanked Ms Ruth Mushin for her outstanding work and efforts to engage with all levels of government and the non-government sector, and to assist them to understand and respond to the needs of the ethnic aged care community organisations. Mr Westerveld referred to Ruth as the ‘bridge builder’. <p>The chairperson thanked Mr Ton Westerveld and presented flowers to him. The chairperson also expressed his thanks to all the attendees and invited them to light refreshments.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 7.37pm.</p>

Minute takers:	Me’ad Assan and ChenSu Ooi
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