



# Multicultural Communities Council of Illawarra Ltd

## General Meeting

5<sup>th</sup> July 2023  
Polish Association Hall, Gwynneville

### MINUTES

#### Opening & Chairperson's Welcome: Mr Ken Habak OAM

Mr Habak opened the General Meeting at 5.45pm.

Uncle Richard Davis gave a Welcome to Country, speaking of the importance of Elders, developing understanding across communities, recognition of First Nations peoples and importance of the Voice referendum.

Mr Habak thanked Uncle Richard and acknowledged the traditional custodians, elders past, present, and future along with elders from other communities present.

Mr Habak acknowledged the distinguished guests, members, stakeholders, and religious leaders and thanked them for their continuing support to MCCI. Mr Habak acknowledged and welcomed Michael Szafraniec, Associate Director of Multicultural NSW.

Mr Habak welcomed everyone to the General Meeting.

#### Apologies

Mr Habak noted the following apologies were received:

Dr Husayn Aly, Dr Rita Chang, Lyn Cuell, Louis Parnis, Ruth Mataitis OAM, Tom Begic, Alison Byrnes MP, Paul Scully MP, Gordon Bradbery AM.

Motion to accept the apologies

Moved by: Enya Gannon  
Seconded by: George Bartolo  
Carried

#### Guest Speakers

Michael Szafraniec Associate Director of Multicultural NSW and responsible for the regional engagement program addressed the meeting. Michael acknowledged country and spoke of his prior work in the Illawarra before leading an ngo in Sydney and now with Multicultural NSW. Michael leads the community engagement team; he provided an overview of the key cultural and language diversity of NSW from the 2021 Census. Michael gave an overview of recent substantial efforts through 2022 and 2023 to engage with communities, including the establishment of the Regional Forum, Listening Tour

engagements in person throughout NSW, and opportunities for communities to get involved. The meeting participated in a series of questions developed throughout the Listening Tour to add to the consultations dataset.

Mr Habak thanked Michael for his presentation, which was received by acclamation.

### **Chairperson's Report: Mr Ken Habak OAM**

Mr Habak addressed the meeting by noting that service operations have largely returned to normal in a post-covid environment; Harmony Week was a highlight in March with the lighting of the Wollongong Lighthouse and many other community events; Refugee Week partnership with Council, Red Cross, IMS and others was very well attended; and at the governance level noted the board's recent investment in a board performance review, governance action plan, aged care governance training, and a new community engagement strategy.

Mr Habak noted that the company's growth was continuing in the community interest and thanked Alison Byrnes MP Cunningham for helping secure \$0.5M this financial year to support refugee service delivery (formerly SCARF). Mr Habak spoke of MCCI's plans to expand to the Shoalhaven, which has seen significant growth in its migrant population, and also welcomed the initial findings of the federal government's migration review by Martin Parkinson with a future focus on more permanent migration. And finally, Mr Habak spoke of the importance of all communities engaging with the Voice Referendum, indicating MCCI's support for the Yes campaign and Uluru Statement from the Heart.

Motion that the Chairperson's report be received.

Moved by: Lazo Gorgiev

Seconded by: Elizabeth Walker

Carried

### **CEO's Report: Mr Chris Lacey**

Mr Lacey thanked the board, staff & volunteers for their efforts during the first half of 2023 and provided a brief overview of operational highlights across aged care programs, training, youth, refugee support, and other services. Some highlights included:

- 200+ home care clients, 26 regular seniors social groups, gyms opened in Wollongong & Canberra, over 7,000 meals in the first half of 2023: all up 1,300 clients in aged care programs
- Noted that 2024 will be 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of MCCI's first aged care funding.
- Aged care worker pay increase of 15% good news for the sector and fully funded by the Australian government
- 45 training sessions, reaching over 1,200 people; around 1,700 people assisted with information and navigation support, 320 visits to people in nursing homes
- Success funding tenders for Care Finder and Aged Care Visitors Scheme to start in July 2023
- 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of SCARF merger: 1,001 general support enquiries, 186 care pack hampers, 5 mental health group sessions, legal aid & health clinics operating from the office, L2P driver mentoring, 252 sessions in education & employment mentoring.
- Youth team running 4 major projects, in the first 6 months of 2023 – 17 programs, 22 partnership collaborations, 950 young people, over 1,500 occasions of service
- In the back-office: new IT roadmap and strategy, leadership development, competency framework for aged care, training & development investments.

Mr Lacey noted key focus areas in the short to medium term included: commencing planning for our next Strategic Plan (due Dec 2024), securing funding for the Shoalhaven, Reconciliation Plan and Voice Referendum, starting to plan MCCI's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2025.

Motion that the CEO's report be received.

Moved by: Kath McCollim  
Seconded by: Angela Ljubic  
Carried

## **General Business**

Mr Habak noted that MCCI's Annual General Meeting is tentatively scheduled for the first week of December, with details to be circulated about director nominations in due course.

There was no other general business.

## **Meeting Close**

Mr Habak thanked all members and other present for their involvement and invited everyone to stay for light refreshments.

There being no other business the Chairperson closed the meeting at 7.00pm.