

2022 - 2023

# Annual Report



Diversity | Inclusion | Respect





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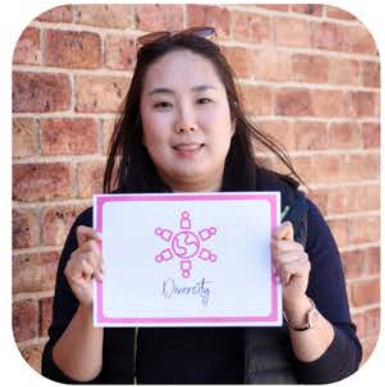
## About us

Multicultural Communities Council of Illawarra (MCCI) acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands upon which we live and work. We offer our deepest respect to Elders past, present, and emerging, and we extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

Since 1975, MCCI has been working to deliver services and programs that promote equity, harmony and social inclusion, and that build community capacity. Our vision is for a cohesive multicultural society that embraces, celebrates and values diversity.

Recognised by Multicultural NSW as a regional peak body, MCCI's deep connections to the community are strengthened by our membership that comprises 58 multicultural associations representing the diversity of modern Australia. We are a leadership voice in advocating for the interests of multicultural Australians and we deliver a substantial program of multidisciplinary services to the community.

With over 380 staff and volunteers from more than 40 cultural backgrounds who speak more than 45 languages, MCCI is committed to delivering high quality, responsive and culturally intelligent services that are guided by our values. And we partner with a significant range of local organisations, services and government agencies to facilitate the social and economic participation of multicultural Australians in our community.





## Chairperson's Message



**On behalf of MCCI, it is my great pleasure to present our Annual Report for 2022-23. As our communities have emerged from the coronavirus pandemic, MCCI has continued to develop and grow our services for migrant and refugee communities.**

### International Events

The Illawarra's many multicultural communities have again been rocked by a range of global catastrophes during the year: floods, earthquakes, and drought. On top of this, the war in Ukraine and ongoing conflicts in the Middle East and other parts of the world, weigh heavy on our communities with direct links to family and friends affected by them. I would like to acknowledge the efforts of our local community leaders and member organisations in supporting families and community members who have been devastated by these global events.

### Cost-of-Living Crisis

These and other events are impacting the Australian community's cost of living. Consecutive interest rate rises and inflation well above recent historic levels has meant that many in our community are doing it tough. As with every non-profit community organisation we are experiencing increased levels of demand for our services, particularly in respect of older community members who are on fixed incomes and those from refugee backgrounds. We are responding to the growing support needs as best we can. Periods of economic hardship and uncertainty can also be a time of concern in respect of social cohesion and community harmony.

### Government Reforms

MCCI's work this year has been influenced by a series of major reform initiatives nationally. The new federal Government has embarked on significant reforms to Australia's migration programs, a new Multicultural Framework Review is underway, and a review of the National Anti-Racism Framework has commenced. Alongside this work, service delivery reforms in aged care remain ongoing following the Aged Care Royal Commission. These big-picture reforms will shape the context for MCCI's work for years to come and, through our peak bodies, MCCI has been making contributions to them.

We saw a change in the NSW Government this year too. I'd like to acknowledge the support provided by Premiers Berejiklian & Perrottet in recent years, along with the former Ministers for Multiculturalism, Natalie Ward and Mark Coure. On behalf of MCCI, we look forward to continuing our positive working relationships with new Premier, Chris Minns, his Minister for Multiculturalism, Steve Kamper, and all of our locally-elected representatives. And we congratulate Paul Scully and Ryan Park on their appointments as ministers in the new Minns Government.

## **Vale Rudi Horvath and John Papakosmas**

During the last year, we mourned the passing of life members Rudi Horvath and John Papakosmas. Rudi and John had deep connections to the work of MCCI (formerly the Illawarra Ethnic Communities Council) and provided lengthy service to the organisation for several decades. As advocates for multicultural communities, their contributions to the Illawarra's social cohesion were significant and are deeply valued by all of us.

Their stories – and that of other early pioneers of the Illawarra Ethnic Council – will be recorded in a forthcoming publication to mark our 50th Anniversary in 2025. We are working on documenting the organisation's history and impact, while also honouring the legacies of those who came before us.

## **New Members**

On behalf of the MCCI family, I would like to give a warm welcome to several new organisations who became members with us this year. Some we have worked with for a long time, others are newly formed. We look forward to a prosperous new partnership with you as part of MCCI:

- Nan Tien Temple
- Libyan Association of NSW
- Wollongong Illawarra Nepali Community
- Shoalhaven Nepalese Community
- Nga Hau E Wha Maori Culture Group
- Indian Australian Cultural Association Illawarra

## **Board Governance**

Throughout the year the board of directors were engaged in a wide variety of community events to support our members. We thank our members for the opportunity to be involved in your events and activities. Directors also completed a First Nations training program as part of our Reconciliation Plan and participated in the KPMG Aged Care Governing for Reform initiative.

Following a strategic review and workshop, the board has also now moved to a bi-monthly meeting schedule, supported by three committees that each meet quarterly:

- Audit, Risk & Compliance
- Human Resources & Corporate Governance
- Aged Care Governance

I would like to acknowledge and celebrate the contributions of directors Dr Husayn Aly and Angela Ljubic who are retiring from the board. Husayn and Angela have both provided lengthy and exceptional support to MCCI for many years and, as chairperson, I would like to sincerely thank them both for contributing their expertise and time to support the board.

## **Looking Ahead**

As we enter the final year of our current strategic plan, we will soon be reflecting on our achievements and planning for the next cycle of our work. We hope to build upon our solid foundations to reach more people in need and, particularly, to grow our footprint of services to the South Coast. We will also be consulting our members in early 2024 on your priorities and expectations for MCCI in the years ahead to help us develop a new strategic plan.

## **Thank You!**

On behalf of MCCI, I would like to extend our sincere thanks and gratitude to all of our members, supporters, partners and funding bodies for their continued support and work this year. A special mention must go to our long term partners at Multicultural NSW and to CEO Joseph La Posta for his ongoing support to MCCI and all Illawarra communities. I would also like to acknowledge the dedication of my fellow directors, MCCI's CEO, staff and volunteers.

I look forward to continuing to work for a cohesive multicultural society that embraces, celebrates and values diversity.

## **Ken Habak OAM**

Chairperson



## CEO'S Message



**The MCCI team is kicking goals for the community. We are continuing to expand our reach and impact, while strengthening the foundations for future growth.**

As we move into the final year of our current Strategic Plan (2021-24) there is much to celebrate about MCCI's achievements for the community. This year we have emerged from the coronavirus pandemic by reinvigorating our services, delivering on our strategic goals and getting ready for the next phase of MCCI's growth for community impact. The team has been working very hard to do our best for the community.

Company revenue has increased again this year improving our sustainability. This is in direct response to community demand and higher service volumes, which will be evident in the statistics presented in later sections of this annual report. One stark example of MCCI's growth is a measure of our total hours delivered in our aged care programs. In 2017-18 we reported a total of 68,830 hours of service and this year we have delivered over 176,000 hours of support. All of this means that we are reaching more people in the community who need some support and we are passionate about doing more.

We are continuing to expand our home care services, support young people and community members from refugee backgrounds, deliver training to a wide range of organisations, assist our many member associations, and forge new partnerships with others who share our values. We have also made important investments in our people, the systems and technology that support our work, and the physical infrastructure that enables our programs to operate.

For example, we were delighted to receive funding to create a new youth space at our head office, and renovations are underway at our Kenny Street multicultural hub and seniors' gym.

An important piece of work this year has been our community co-design and consultation with the Shoalhaven community. There has been a significant increase in the culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) population of the South Coast in response to recent economic growth, but there are few specialist services for migrants based locally. With a number of new community associations forming in the Shoalhaven, a multicultural hub concept has emerged as the preferred option to respond to growing community need for specialised services. Substantial efforts have been directed to advocate to government for funding an innovative service model. While these efforts are ongoing, MCCI secured a funding enhancement to expand our aged care services to the South Coast in 2023 and we look forward to future positive developments for the community. New social support groups are planned, along with an expansion of our in-home care and home care package services.

In addition to widening our geographic footprint to new communities that need support, we have secured two very important new multi-year programs in the Illawarra:

- Care finders is a new case coordination initiative to assist older people with complex support needs to get the help they require to live independently at home, and



- Aged Care Volunteer Visitors Scheme is designed to link community members with socially isolated seniors for company and friendship.

As a regional peak body for multicultural communities, MCCI's wider community advocacy work this year continued to build on our record of being a strong voice for multiculturalism and social cohesion. During the year, MCCI:

- had 55 media engagements on radio, television, and in the online & print media,
- had 11,380 followers across our social media platforms,
- produced podcasts with young people
- developed new webinars on culturally appropriate care,
- represented the views of Illawarra multicultural communities in over 250 external networks and consultations, and
- contributed actively through our national and state peak bodies.

We remain engaged in several ongoing and influential consultation bodies across government, including those facilitated by Dept. of Communities & Justice, Dept. of Health, COORDINARE, Multicultural NSW, FECCA, Community Industry Group and others. During the year we were also pleased to join the Illawarra-South Coast Local Jobs Employment Taskforce, SSI's Home Care Workforce Program Governance Committee, and engage with consultation bodies from the Services Australia, the National Disability Insurance Scheme, and the Department of Customer Service. These opportunities enable MCCI to provide a community voice and represent our members on a wide range of matters.

At the close of this financial year, MCCI's staff team comprised 146 dedicated and professional staff and 242 volunteers working together towards our strategic goals. Around 50 community languages are spoken by the staff team alone, providing a core asset to MCCI's work in supporting migrant and refugee community members in the Illawarra-South Coast and Canberra.

Leveraging this diversity in a larger organisation presents MCCI with some wonderful opportunities. We have embarked on a new internal leadership development program to support our teams, and employee satisfaction remains high at 84% this year.

The merger with SCARF Refugee Support had its second anniversary during the year. We have brought our refugee support and youth teams together for stronger alignment internally. Under the leadership of new General Manager Allyson Pazos the programs are operating with widening community reach and positive impact. Sufficient funding has been secured on a short-term basis for the much-valued programs, although longer term solutions will be required in order to continue the amazing work to assist newcomers to our region.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the many individuals, schools and community groups who supported MCCI with fundraising activities to fill some of the gaps in resourcing. I would particularly like to thank Angela Saville from SAVVY who chose MCCI as their charity partner for the SAVVY Survivor event, raising over \$40,000 for refugee support programs. A generous \$26,000 donation was also gratefully received from the Anderson Family Bequest via Equity Trustees. We sincerely thank them.

Looking ahead, 2024 will mark 40 years since MCCI - then known as the Illawarra Ethnic Council - received its first funding under the Grants in Aid Program. It enabled MCCI to employ its first worker, Mrs Eva Holmes, to support the welfare needs of multicultural communities. We will be preparing for celebrations of our 50th Anniversary in 2025 and a history project has commenced to document MCCI's impact and people in a book to commemorate this important milestone. We will also be developing our new Strategic Plan for the next three-year period.

Thank you sincerely to all of our wonderful staff, volunteers, clients and board directors.

**Chris Lacey**  
Chief Executive Officer & Company Secretary

## Governance

MCCI is a non-profit company limited by guarantee, registered charity and public benevolent institution. Details about MCCI's charitable status can be obtained at the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission website, [www.acnc.gov.au](http://www.acnc.gov.au). MCCI's vision is for a cohesive multicultural society that embraces, celebrates and values diversity. The company's short and long term objectives are outlined in the company constitution.

They are:

- (a) To promote the principles of multiculturalism in the Australian community, including promoting and protecting human rights, raising public awareness about the benefits of our multicultural community, and educating the public regarding the importance of ending racial discrimination in all its forms;
- (b) To develop a spirit of unity and cooperation among CALD communities and to promote public debate, services and education programs that foster mutual respect, social inclusion, diversity and harmony within the Australian community;
- (c) To preserve and advocate for the rights of people from CALD backgrounds including their effective participation in policy-making decisions which affect the community;
- (d) To advance social and public welfare by establishing and providing community services and assistance to people in necessitous circumstances;

(e) To establish, maintain and develop community services and educational programs for people from CALD and other backgrounds to promote their health, well-being, life skills, community participation, individual and collective capacity, employment prospects, and general welfare in the Australian community;

(f) To ameliorate the difficulties and problems encountered by people from CALD backgrounds in Australia

(g) To maintain an advocacy role on behalf of people from CALD backgrounds with local, state and federal government representatives and instrumentalities; and

(h) To promote access and equity for persons of CALD backgrounds.

MCCI's financial statements are published annually at the ACNC website, along with the Director's Annual Report as a requirement of the Corporations Act.

The board of directors for FY 22-23 are:

- Ken Habak OAM, Chairperson
- Tom Begic, Deputy Chairperson
- Leissa West
- Angela Ljubic
- Dr Rita Chang
- Kath McCollim
- Dr Husayn Aly
- Lyn Cuell JP
- Duncan Brown

Directors held 11 board meetings during the year, supported by three committees which met on a further eight occasions combined.



## Directors & CEO



Ken Habak OAM  
Chairperson



Tom Begic  
Deputy Chairperson



Leissa West



Duncan Brown



Lyn Cuell JP



Dr Husayn Aly



Kath McCollim



Dr Rita Chang



Angela Ljubic



Chris Lacey  
Chief Executive  
Officer & Company  
Secretary

## Representation

MCCI is a proactive voice for regional communities representing the interests of 58 local associations. We seek to advance multiculturalism in Australia through constructive and respectful engagement with all levels of government and the community. We make regular policy submissions and participate in research projects, committees and networks to influence systems and programs that support multicultural Australians. We also provide information, advice, resources and training to support our members to achieve their goals, and carry out extensive community engagement activities to ensure all communities have access to relevant information.

### Snapshot

- Regional peak body
- 88 members: 58 organisations,  
22 individual members & 9 life members
- 230 community engagements
- 50+ networks/forums attended
- 55 media engagements
- 11,380 social media followers





## MCCI in Action

### Visions of a Shoalhaven Multicultural Hub

Belonging was a key word for the nearly 50 people who attended a consultation in May on what a multicultural hub in the Shoalhaven might look like. People from CALD backgrounds make up almost 15 percent of Shoalhaven's population. With a growing and diversifying population, discussions concentrated on the need for better local support, working with local businesses, and the need to relieve pressure on volunteer support networks.



### Ride the Past Exhibition

The bicycle was an integral part of Waad Yousif's everyday life when he lived in Northern Iraq. In the mornings, he packed his bicycle with large bags of clothing, and sometimes he would prop his son Andraws on the handlebars and take him to school on the way to the market. Waad was one of fourteen cyclists in Wollongong from migrant and refugee backgrounds who shared their stories at the exhibition Ride the Past during the 2022 UCI Road World Championships. The exhibition was a collaboration between the Migration Heritage Project and MCCI.



### Supporting New Members

The Illawarra has a long history of immigration and it is pleasing to see new communities emerge and more associations joining MCCI. This year we have welcomed the Nan Tien Temple, Wollongong Illawarra Nepali Community, Libyan Association, Indian Australian Cultural Association, Gawura Aboriginal Corporation IKMSG, Illawarra Chilean Association, Shoalhaven Nepalese Community and Nga Hau E Wha Ethnic Maori Culture Group.





## Service Delivery & Quality **Aged Care**

MCCI's growing care services team in the Illawarra, Shoalhaven and ACT/Queanbeyan regions delivers a full suite of services designed to support seniors to continue to live independently at home. By collaborating with communities and putting consumers at the centre, our aim is to support clients from all cultural backgrounds to achieve their goals, and receive services that are culturally intelligent, safe and responsive. Emerging from the pandemic with lessons learned about the importance of social connections for wellbeing, we continue to expand our services to meet growing community need.

### Snapshot

- 48,775 hours of support at home\*
- 10,745 hours of allied health support\*
- 15,876 meals provided
- 7,886 transport trips
- 61,046 hours group support
- 2,280 hours of volunteer visiting
- 114 carers supported
- 98.6% of clients would recommend MCCI to family or friends

\*includes staff and contractors





## MCCI in Action

### Expanding Services to Shoalhaven

The Italian support group is MCCI's first multicultural support group in Nowra. It marks a new era, with MCCI expanding further south and offering culturally appropriate care services to a rapidly growing and diversifying older population in the Shoalhaven. Forming new partnerships with the local community has been essential in the process of co-designing aged care services in the region.



### New Gym & Wellbeing Centre in Wollongong

"This is another big step in our mission to support our seniors to be happy, healthy and independent at home," said MCCI Chair Ken Habak OAM when he opened the new multicultural gym at MCCI's premises in Kenny Street.

Angelina (100) from the Philippines, one of the seniors who has regular exercise physiology sessions with us, had the honour to cut the ribbon together with Mr Habak and MP Alison Byrnes, Federal Member for Cunningham.



### Growing Friendship Program

After celebrating the nationwide Community Visitors Scheme (CVS) 30th anniversary in 2022, MCCI secured funding for its extension, ACVVS, which will match more seniors and volunteers over the next three years. Melissa and Jane are two of the women involved in program which is connecting generations of people. They meet fortnightly, have attended pottery classes together and developed a friendship they both benefit from.





## Service Delivery & Quality **Youth Support**

MCCI's youth & community programs empower young people to plan their futures to ensure they have the knowledge and skills to make informed choices and support their communities. Young people learn how to effectively navigate systems and become active citizens in the community. We work in close collaboration with schools and tertiary education providers, businesses and other partner organisations to further our reach and impact. Returning to face-to-face learning has been warmly welcomed by young people and our staff team.

### Snapshot

- Worked with 3,919 young people
- 159 programs
- 1,006 sessions
- 100% satisfaction rate
- 48 partnerships





## MCCI in Action

### Connecting with Peers at Youth Conference

100 young people from seven local schools attended the 16th Illawarra Multicultural Youth Conference at Five Islands Secondary College. They learned about beach safety, The Uluru Statement From The Heart, how to improve their computer literacy, how to stay motivated, set goals and achieve them. In the afternoon they attended various chill-out sessions. The students were from 22 countries originally.



### From Accelerate HER to THEM

The youth program Accelerate-HER built capacity and prepared young women from CALD backgrounds to enter higher education and the workforce. Its success paved way for a new program for young people. Accelerate THEM introduced 60 high-school students to skills, such as team building, first aid training and future opportunities locally through visits to institutions such as UOW, TAFE, Novotel, the Steelworks and Nan Tien Temple.



### Sharing Experiences in Award-Winning Podcast

Young people shared their stories of what it means to be young, from a refugee or migrant background and settling in the Illawarra in the five-part Amplifying M Voices podcast series by Beyond Empathy and MCCI. Throughout the year, they bravely delved into themes of language, culture, adulthood, self-love and trust. Amplifying M Voices won the NSW Youth Work Awards 2023 for 'Outstanding Work with Young People from Diverse Backgrounds and Experiences'.





## Service Delivery & Quality **Refugee Support**

MCCI supports people from refugee backgrounds to build a sense of belonging and navigate the practical and personal challenges of starting a new life in Australia. By creating connections and generating opportunities, MCCI helps individuals and families to experience social and economic inclusion, and access the tools for self-empowerment and independence. Our program areas are inclusion and education, employment and training, support and navigation, and health and wellbeing. They provide responsive, targeted settlement support to our community and are delivered by a dedicated team of staff and volunteers.

### Snapshot

- 849 clients supported
- 2,940 attendances
- 44 mental health literacy workshops for 1,275 people
- 178 one-on-one employment sessions
- 20 employment group sessions
- 210 driving mentoring sessions
- 172 school support sessions with 329 attendances
- 675 instances of general advice





## MCCI in Action

### Raised \$40,960.74 for Refugee Support

There were 350 new Champions of Welcome who participated in the annual 7-day team charity event SAVVY Survivor of which MCCI was the chosen charity. The amazing amount raised and the commitment of all the Survivors, sponsors and the SAVVY team, showed broad community support for more recently arrived migrants and refugees. It was a humble and grateful CEO Chris Lacey who thanked everybody for their effort and generosity.



### Training and Employment

The employment programs assisted people address the barriers they experience in finding sustainable and skilled employment. The program provided one-on-one and group mentoring to access education and training, develop work-ready skills, resume and job support, work experience, employment and post-placement support. The L2P driver mentoring program enabled people to make up supervised driving hours with volunteer mentors.

### Funding Boost for Mental Wellbeing

MCCI was one of 76 organisations chosen to take part in a \$4 million initiative by the NSW Government to improve community connections and wellbeing in regional, rural and remote areas. A total of 44 multilingual wellbeing workshops with 1,275 attendees prepared people for how to tackle challenges and stay connected if they experience mental ill-health issues.



## Community Reach & Impact **Diversity & Inclusion**

MCCI's community impact has national, state and regional reach as we work to partner with a wide range of organisations. We provide feedback and input into policy development, consult widely, and complete an extensive training program annually to support improve service delivery for multicultural communities. Through our multi-jurisdiction Partners in Culturally Appropriate Care Program across NSW and the ACT, MCCI is particularly working to promote safe & inclusive care for older Australians from culturally diverse backgrounds.

### Snapshot

- 37 training sessions delivered
- 1,063 cultural training participants from 497 organisations
- 5,766 resources distributed
- 9 multicultural roundtables & consultations
- 74 high-risk seniors supported to access services
- 13 CALDWays webinars developed
- 757 registered for CALDWays webinars

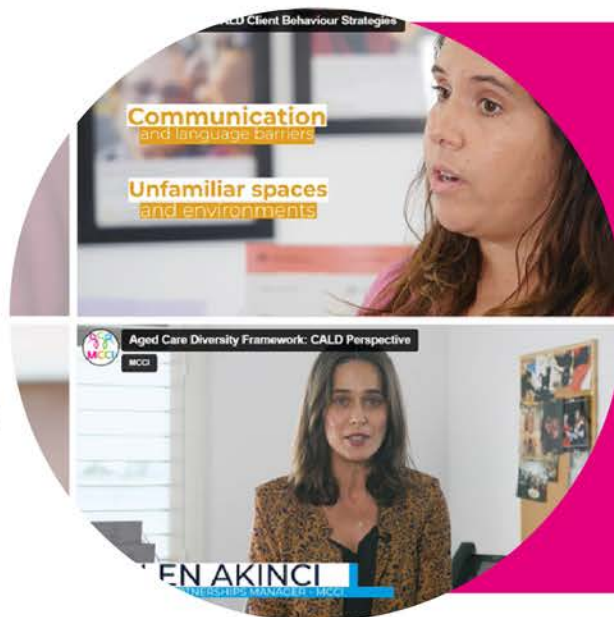




## MCCI in Action

### CALDWays Webinars

757 people registered for 13 new CALDWays webinars which brought together experts to share information on how aged care providers can improve their service delivery for CALD consumers. The webinars covered a range of topics, including dementia care, inclusive service delivery for people from LGBTQIA+ and CALD backgrounds, trauma-informed care, and multicultural perspectives on advance care planning.



### Training care finders Across Australia

MCCI partnered with the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) to train care finders nationally in supporting older people to interact with My Aged Care and access aged care and other relevant support services. The program came in response to recommendations by the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety. MCCI held eight workshops with 175 registrations in all states and territories.



### Caring for Carers

MCCI facilitated three retreats with 37 carers to show our support and appreciation of their tireless commitment to looking after others. The retreats enabled carers to have a short break from their caring roles, meet others in a similar situation and exchange ideas and practical tips, go for walks in the bush and along the coast, and attend wellbeing workshops. Taking time away and looking after oneself is key to looking after others.





## People & Culture

Our diverse and growing workforce of staff, volunteers and contractors reflects the communities we work with. COVID-19 brought about more flexible work arrangements which have continued with increased use of technology and hybrid working. There has been greater focus on how to strengthen relations between multicultural communities and First Nations Peoples locally and nationally. This combined with an ongoing emphasis on wellbeing, skills development and cultural training of teams has contributed to maintaining a robust and inclusive workforce.

### Snapshot

- 146 staff
- 242 volunteers
- 13,200 volunteer hours
- \$570,000 worth of volunteering
- 49 languages spoken
- 84% employee satisfaction
- Training in 60 different subjects and courses





## MCCI in Action

### What's in a Name

During Multicultural March 34 MCCI staff shared stories about their names, their origins and adaptations in Australia. The social media campaign was a celebration of names but also generated a discussion on radio and in the community on name discrimination. It was later nominated for the NSW Premier's Multicultural Communications Awards.



### Hands in Harmony at the Nan Tien Temple

MCCI staff marked Reconciliation Week by visiting the Hands in Harmony exhibition at the Nan Tien Temple where Dr Jodi Edwards shared stories of local history. The outing was filled with intercultural learning about Buddhism, caring for country, tai chi, sustainability and local Dreamtime stories. The day ended with planting hands with messages in the 'Sea of Lotus Hands', shaped like a serpent on Dharawal land.

### Volunteer Change Makers

The theme for National Volunteer Week this year was 'We are the Change Makers'. At MCCI we are fortunate to have 242 Change Makers who make a tremendous impact on the community. We celebrated them with a lunch and a short social media campaign with testimonials. We could not do this without you!





## 2022-2023 Highlights

July



### Two New Youth Projects

Healthy Communities and Amplifying M-Voices supported multicultural youth and their families settle in the Illawarra.

### School Holiday Activities

Included a visit to the Art Gallery of NSW, football clinic, cooking circle, futsal tournament and Active Fest Sports Day at Shellharbour.

August



### Launch of 3 Advance Care Planning Videos

People from the Turkish, Vietnamese and Arabic communities were featured in the multilingual videos about planning ahead.

### Heba's Cooking School

A new cooking school with Accredited Dietitian Heba aimed at improving diet and wellbeing.

September



### Tulip Time in Bowral

40 MCCI seniors visited the spectacular tulip festival in the Southern Highlands which had 75,000 tulips on display.

### Community Mobilisers in Cancer Campaign

Community mobilisers helped with videos in Arabic, Swahili and Karenni promoting cancer screening during Multicultural Health Week.



## October

### **Colourful Diwali Celebrations in the ACT**

The Indian social group celebrated Diwali/Deepavali, the Hindu festival of lights with a delicious feast.

### **\$5,000 Raised at Trivia**

More than 120 people joined the big trivia night at The Steelers Club in Wollongong in support of our refugee support services.



## November

### **Wellbeing Vidoes in Karen and Karenni**

Young people made wellbeing videos to raise awareness in their community about mental health. The videos were based on headspace's 7 Tips for a Healthy Headspace.

### **Elder Abuse Resources in 16 Languages**

Several organisations worked together to develop multilingual audio-resources to help seniors stay informed and safe.



## December

### **Volunteering for Nearly 50 years**

"I don't want the money. I want to enjoy with the people. That is the best pay I receive in my life," said Sonia Ryes who was awarded Life Membership at MCCI's AGM.

### **Food Hampers to the Community**

Thanks to SALCO and Food4Life, 100 fresh food hampers were donated to the community. 30 were donated to families from refugee backgrounds.





## 2022-2023 Highlights

## January

**Mental Health First Aid Course**

'It's OK not to be OK' was the message to the young people who attended a mental health first aid course in Port Kembla over the school holidays.

**Exploring Sydney**

Young women stayed overnight at Cockatoo Island as part of Lead the Way and The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award.

## February

**Seniors take on Lake Illawarra**

"That felt good. I need to do more of this," Zdravko said.

MCCI fishing enthusiasts landed a good-sized yellowfin whiting and a few small tailors when they practised catch and release at Lake Illawarra during the Seniors Festival.

## March

**Opening of Youth Space**

Thanks to a grant from NSW Ports, a new youth hub opened at the back of the Wollongong office.

**New Videos About Advance Care Planning**

'Start the conversation about future health care' was the message of two new community videos in Macedonian and Portuguese.



April

### Two Cook-Off Recipe Books

Students at Lake Illawarra and Corrimal High Schools teamed up with volunteers and prepared a feast as part of the Multicultural Intergenerational Cook-Off program. The recipe books are available on our website.



May

### Intergenerational Bote` Project in Cringila

Karen and Karenni women passed on bote` hand-weaving skills to younger generations.

### Boardgame Used for Consultation in Nowra

The boardgame Arki\_nopoly by Arki\_lab ensured broad participation in the consultation on a multicultural hub.



June

### Celebrating Refugee Week

The theme 'finding freedom' was reflected in entertainment and speeches at Wollongong Town Hall as the community came together to mark the occasion.

### Aged Care Discussions

30 people from 13 cultural backgrounds attended an information session about care finders at the Fraternity Club.



## Acknowledgements

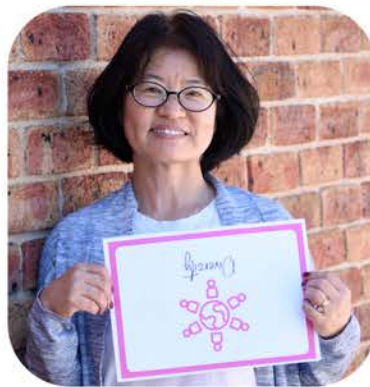
MCCI would like to thank our many supporters and partners without whom our work would not be possible. We would like to acknowledge the valuable and ongoing funding support provided by the following funding partners:

- Multicultural NSW
- Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care
- Australian Government Department of Social Services
- ClubGRANTS NSW
  - Builders Club
  - Fraternity Club
  - Colliers
  - Shellharbour Club
- COORDINARE South Eastern NSW PHN
- James N. Kirby Foundation
- Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA)
- Westpac Foundation
- NSW Department of Communities and Justice
- NSW Office of Sport
- NSW Ports Authority
- NSW Department of Regional NSW
- Shoalhaven City Council
- Wollongong City Council
- Resilience NSW
- Settlement Services International

We would also like to thank the MCCI members, local organisations, stakeholders, partners, elected representatives at local, state and federal levels, along with the many individuals and volunteers who have donated their time, resources and energy in working together towards our vision of an inclusive and respectful society.

We look forward to continuing our work together to support communities and to promote social inclusion and community harmony in 2024.







## Life Members

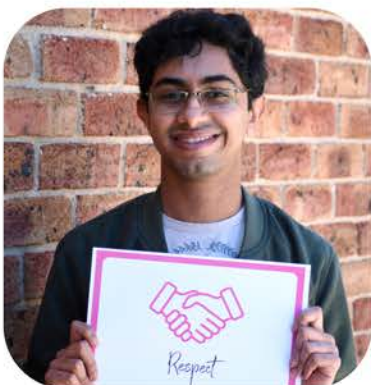
Dr Sultan Aly  
Fadel Benhima  
George Bartolo OAM  
Ken Habak OAM  
Max Bisley  
Roko Radocaj  
Ruth Mataitis OAM  
Joe Alves  
Sonia Ryes

## MCCI Organisation Members

AGA Club Germania Ltd  
Association of Illawarra Community Languages Schools Inc  
Australian-Philippine Association Illawarra Inc  
CAPAH Multicultural Association Inc  
Chinese Australian Services Society Ltd  
Community Resources Ltd (Green Connect)  
Croatian Catholic Church  
Cyprian Community of Wollongong Inc  
Dutch Australian Society in Illawarra Inc  
Gawura Aboriginal Corporation IKMSG  
George Cross Falcons Club Inc  
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australian  
Greek Welfare Centre Sub Entity  
Greek Orthodox Community of Illawarra  
Saint Nektarios  
Greek Orthodox Community of Illawarra St  
Nektarios Greek Independent Daycare  
Illawarra Afghan Association Inc  
Illawarra Chilean Association Inc  
Illawarra Community FM Broadcasters Ltd  
(VOX FM)  
Illawarra Filipino & Multicultural Womens  
Group Inc  
Illawarra Indochinese Association Inc  
Illawarra Iranian Association Inc  
Illawarra Kerala Samajam Inc  
Illawarra Multicultural Services Inc  
Illawarra Muslim Aid Inc  
Illawarra Muslim Women's Association Inc  
Illawarra Women's Health Centre Inc  
Indian Australian Cultural Association  
Illawarra Inc  
Interchange Illawarra Ltd  
ISLHD - Multicultural Health Service  
IT.SO.WEL. Italian Social Welfare  
Organisation Ltd  
Libyan Association of NSW

Macedonian Orthodox Community of the City  
of Greater Wollongong 'Saint Dimitrija  
Solunski'  
Macedonian Welfare Association of NSW  
Maronite Catholic Parish of Our Lady of  
Lebanon Wollongong Inc  
Merrigong Theatre Co (Illawarra Performing  
Arts Centre Ltd)  
Migration Heritage Project Inc  
Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association  
of NSW Inc  
Nan Tien Temple  
Nga Hau E Wha Ethnic Maori Culture Group  
Inc  
Omar Mosque (Wollongong Islamic Society  
Inc)  
Pakistan Community Wollongong Inc  
Polish Association in Wollongong Inc  
Pukapuka Community of Wollongong Inc  
Saint Elias Antiochian Orthodox Church Parish  
Association Inc  
Shoalhaven Nepalese Community Inc  
Sisters' Cancer Support Group Inc  
South Coast Lebanese Association Inc  
South Coast Portuguese Association Ltd  
Spanish and Latin American Community  
(SALCO) Inc  
St John the Baptist Serbian Orthodox Parish  
and Church Community  
Uthman Mosque  
Vietnamese Association of Wollongong Inc  
Why Documentaries  
Wollongong Chinese Seniors Association Inc  
Wollongong French Association Inc  
Wollongong Hellenic Club Ltd  
Wollongong Illawarra Nepali Community Inc  
ZONTA Club of Wollongong Inc







Offices in the Illawarra,  
Shoalhaven and ACT  
[mcci.org.au](http://mcci.org.au)