



Fostering Multicultural Values

Minutes of DECC Meeting Held at 6:30pm on 1 September 2005

Present: Lionel Bopage, Reece Cocks (MFB), N. Suriyakumaran (Australian Federation of Tamils) Jackie Mansourian (Secretary), Dalal Smiley (Darebin City Council), Gaetano Greco (Chairperson), Indah Morgan (DECC representative), Koste Kolovski (TANEC), Peco Sijakoski (TANEC), Louis Krushorovski (The Federation of Macedonian S.C.K. of Northern Region in Victoria), Kosta Ristovski (BIGLA), Arthur Yong (Nemoa), Josara de Lange (DECC), Simone Battiston (DECC), Pietre Trpkovsk (Northcote Macedonian Senior Citizens Club), Milica Trpkovska (Northcote Macedonian Senior Citizens Club), Parag Mody (CentreLink Preston), Naomi Paine (NMRC)

Apologies: Jenny Mikakos

The Chairperson's Welcome commenced the meeting at 6:30

Guest Speaker:

Darebin's new CEO Michael Ulbrick introduced himself and talked about what he intends to bring to the City of Darebin in general and in respect to multiculturalism. He outlined his three main areas of focus: good governance, regional advocacy and cooperation, and Occupational Health and Safety within the Darebin City Council Workplace. Members then had an opportunity to question Michael about issues of concern to them.

Confirmation of Minutes

Other Business:

- Parag Mody was elected to represent DECC at a Citizenship Ceremony being held on the 17 September.
- Jackie Mansourian was elected as the DECC Australia Day representative.
- Indah Morgan said she would be to attend the Community Safety Meetings as a DECC representative.

Reports:

- Members were reminded about the Darebin Music Feast being held from 28 August to 25 September. There are a wide range of events all over Darebin during this period.

- The Ethnic Senior Citizens Forum is going to be held on 3rd of November. George Lekakis of the Victorian Multicultural Commission will start the forum, there will be entertainment in the form of the signoras, and interpreters will be available in a number of different languages. More details about the day will be available closer to the event.
- A grant was received to extend the Darebin's Australians Cards to include four sporting heroes of Darebin. This should overlap with the Commonwealth Games.
- A collection of stories about Darebin's citizens will be published and distributed at the Ethnic Senior Citizens Forum. These will be personal stories about people's experiences moving to Darebin and living in Darebin
- A project that grew out of the Darebin's Australians cards, a book of the history of Darebin, is still being worked on by Simone Battiston and Rosara De Lange. It will be available early next year. The working title is "Darebin's Australians, from Immigrants to Citizens"
- Darebin and MRC put in a joint application for a grant to fund Human Rights Day. A significant amount was approved, and MRC and DECC will now need to look for an Events Coordinator to organise the day, as well as a DECC representative to sit on the committee.
- The MRC has also received funding for the Refugee Youth Council, which will advocate for refugee issues.
- DECC representative Suriyan reported on the progress of the Northcote Place Making Project. A representative of this project is coming to talk to DECC at the next meeting (29/9).
- It was suggested that the ethnic communities' councils of the Northern region of Melbourne form the Northern Ethnic Communities Council, which would have more collective power to throw behind the various issues.
- A forum entitled "What is Multiculturalism?" was proposed as a response to the apparent doubts, which are surfacing in the government and many Australians, about multiculturalism in the wake of recent world events.

Meeting closed at 8:00pm