



## **Fostering Multicultural Values in Darebin**

### **Minutes of DECC meeting held 21 July 2005**

#### Present:

Koste Kolevski (TANEC), Vincenzo Balestra (Coasit), John Nicolaou (Reservoir Greek Club), Peco Sijakoski (TANEC), Reece Cocks (Melbourne Fire Brigade), Petre Trpkovski (Northcote Macedonian S.C.K.), Milica Trpkovski (Northcote Macedonian S.C.K.), Louis Krushorevski (The Federation of Macedonian S.C. of Northern Region Victoria), Sofia Kotanidis (Greek Community of Northcote, City of Darebin and Districts), Jackie Mansourian (Darebin Community Health), Arthur B W Yong (North Eastern Melbourne Chinese Association), Naomi Paine (Northern Migrant Resource Centre).

#### Apologies:

Lionel Bopage, Dalal Smiley, Gaetano Greco, David Diaz, Parag Mody, Andy Mylonas, John Zika

1. Welcome

2. Confirmation of Minutes

3. The Guest Speaker was Katarina Brosovic-Basic (also DECC deputy chairperson), who spoke about the findings of the Pokie Free Places Project. The project investigated the reasons why people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Communities go to the pokies, and what the effects of the pokies are on CALD communities. This stimulated much discussion amongst members about why people go to the pokies, and how people could be discouraged from going to the pokies. It was suggested that some form of regulation was needed regarding the casinos funding of senior citizens clubs is concerned. It was also suggested that each DECC member writes individually to their local member of parliament asking them to reduce or remove the pokies from their area, or alternatively DECC could draught a generic letter against the pokies that would be read and signed by DECC members and then sent to the various local members of parliament.

Vincenzo Balestra reported that he had written a letter to the mayor of the City of Yarra requesting funding for more bocce courts in the City of Yarra. bocce is an inexpensive sport, suitable for young and old, and is very social.

Naomi Paine of the Northern Migrant Resource Centre reported that very large amounts of the NMRC's funding is due to be cut in October following the Department of Immigration Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs funding decisions (See enclosed summary). The NMRC provides vital support for migrant groups that is otherwise unavailable. DIMIA is to redistribute funding to organisations that do not have the experience or expertise that the NMRC has, and this will be a great loss to those

concerned and the larger community. At the August DECC meeting a resolution of support for the NMRC against these funding cuts will be tabled.

Louis Krushorevski said that DECC needs to reach out to new and emerging communities, as well as other communities not represented in DECC. DECC needs to have a wider base of ethnic based groups in order to be a truly representative ethnic communities council.

Jackie Mansourian and John Nicolaou reported on a Commonwealth games planning meeting they attended. It was a preliminary meeting and more will be discussed and reported to DECC after future meetings. Jackie is unable to attend future meetings but John Nicolaou will continue to represent DECC at these meetings. The next meeting is in August.

Meeting closed at 8:15 p.m.