



Fostering Intercultural Values

Minutes of DECC Meeting Held at 6:30pm on 27 October 2005

Present:

Reece Cocks – MFB	Arthur Yong – NEMCA
Kosta Ristovski – BIGLA	Steve - Greek Elderly Citizens Club of Northcote
Lionel Bopage – Shakthi	Gabby Fakhri – ASRC
Mariam Bakeer – ASRC	David Diaz – City of Darebin
George Kanjere – DECC	Enika Perera
Jackie Mansourian	Gaetano Greco
Etedal Jawad – Al-Amel TPV holders	
Stjepan Novak – Croatian Northern Region	
Nevenka Bajer – Croatian Northern Region	
Louis Krushorovski - The Federation of Macedonian S.C.K	
Milica Trpkovski - Northcote Macedonian Senior Citizens Club	
Petre Trpkovski – Northcote Macedonian Senior Citizens Club	

Apologies:

Simone Battiston – DECC	Dalal Smiley – City of Darebin
Josara de Lange – DECC	Jenny Mikakos – MP, Member for Jika Jika

Meeting Commenced at 6:40 pm

1. Chairperson's welcome

2. Guest Speakers:

The three guest speakers spoke of their experiences as refugees in Australia. Two, Mariam Bakeer and Etedal Jawad, had arrived in the past seven years, while the other, Lionel Bopage, had arrived during the late 1980s. There was quite a contrast between the stories depending on the time of arrival. From these stories it appears as though Australia's system of dealing with refugees has become much harsher in recent times, with currently very little or no support from the government and punitive, inconsistent restrictions on rights to work and to study. Currently many Temporary Protection Visa holders rely on the generosity of NGOs such as churches and refugee organisations, otherwise they would be destitute.

3. Confirmation of minutes.

4. Reports:

Gaetano Greco: A forum on the proposed anti-terror laws will be held on Tuesday 15 November at 7:30pm in the Shire Hall at the City of Darebin council

offices. This is being jointly held by Darebin Ethnic Communities Council and the Preston – Reservoir Progress Association.

David Diaz: A new multilingual telephone line has been started: 8470 8470. A new system is being implemented and information on how to use it will be sent to the relevant groups.

A public debate with the title ‘Racial and Religious Tolerance Act - Does it Promote or Stifle our Freedom of Speech?’ will be held by the City of Darebin on the 22 of November in the Shire Hall, at 7.00pm.

5. Other Business:

Members were invited by Jackie Mansourian to nominate someone for the Darebin Australia Day Awards.

On the 26th November at Collingwood Town hall there will be a festival celebrating 30 years of Vietnamese immigration from 1- 5pm. It is being organised by the Yarra Settlement Forum.

Meeting Finished at 8:15 pm.