

## 2.5 MULTICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE – APPOINTMENT OF NEW MEMBERS

Responsible Committee: Multicultural Advisory Committee  
(Cr Nicky Luo, Cr Tina Samardzija & Cr Anjalee de Silva)

Responsible Director: Russell Hopkins

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

*That Council:*

1. *Endorses the appointment of the following eight community representatives and one agency representative to the Multicultural Advisory Committee, each for a two- year term:*

- *Elisha Lee*
- *Nira Rahman*
- *Rajmohan Ramanathapillai*
- *Eman Armanous*
- *Philip Liberatore*
- *Rukhsana Ahmadi*
- *Amit Patel*
- *Malinda Zhu*
- *Saied Rezawi – Agency representative: MiCare*

2. *Thanks the following eight members who are retiring for their contribution, having served two X two- year terms:*

- *Bala Balamurugan*
- *May Hu*
- *Victoria Mandoh*
- *Lena Kojadelian*
- *Jimmy Jian-Min Li*
- *Theresa Ssali*
- *Richard Ng*
- *Konstantina Kouroutsidou*

### **INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this report is to recommend the appointment of eight new members to the Multicultural Advisory Committee (MAC) and thank the eight retiring members.

### **BACKGROUND**

The role of the MAC is to act in an advisory capacity to Council on issues relating to the multicultural communities of Monash and to support the implementation of Council's *Monash Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025*.

The MAC comprises of 16 members appointed by Council including three Councillors. The MAC currently has eight vacancies. The MAC currently has nine (9) vacancies comprised of eight community representatives and one agency representative.

**DISCUSSION**

Due to the eight community vacancies on the MAC, Council invited nominations from people living or working in the City of Monash who:

- Have knowledge and understanding of the needs and issues affecting CALD communities.
- An interest and involvement in local and/or broader multicultural community affairs, advocacy and networks.
- An interest and understanding of Local Government services and programs from a multicultural community perspective.
- The ability to contribute to the strategic development of multicultural policy at local government level.
- Direct links to local ethnic community populations and/or organisations.
- Experience and/or understanding of the role of an advisory committee.

Council received 26 nominations to join the committee. Ten nominees were shortlisted and invited to attend two group interviews held on Thursday 27 October 2022, chaired by Cr Nicky Luo. Cr Tina Samardzija also supported the interview process.

Following the interview, the following eight applicants were considered most suitable for membership of the Committee, along with an agency representative from MiCare:

- Elisha Lee
- Nira Rahman
- Rajmohan Ramanathapillai
- Eman Armanous
- Philip Liberatore
- Rukhsana Ahmadi
- Amit Patel
- Malinda Zhu
- Saied Rezawi – Agency representative: MiCare

All of the recommended applicants meet the membership criteria set out in the MAC Terms of Reference (Attachment 1). They represent cultural backgrounds reflective of the Monash community, offer relevant lived experiences, skills and qualifications that complement those of the existing committee members.

These new members, in addition to the five current members and the three representative Councillors, will bring this committee to a full membership.

There are eight retiring MAC members who have each made a significant contribution to the MAC over the last four years.

- Bala Balamurugan
- May Hu
- Victoria Mandoh
- Lena Kojadelian
- Jimmy Jian-Min Li
- Theresa Ssali

- Richard Ng
- Konstantina Kouroutsidou

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

This report is in line with Council's *Monash Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025*.

**SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The contribution that community members make through their participation on the MAC enhances Council's work in the area of multiculturalism and cultural diversity for people from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds, and ultimately facilitates opportunities for good advocacy, policy development and service provision for their benefit and the community at large.

**HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS**

This report is in line with the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 and, in particular, with the following right: *freedom of expression; and taking part in public life*.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications resulting from this recommendation.

**CONCLUSION**

This report recommends the appointment of the following eight community representatives to the Multicultural Advisory Committee, each for a two-year term:

- Elisha Lee
- Nira Rahman
- Rajmohan Ramanathapillai
- Eman Armanous
- Philip Liberatore
- Rukhsana Ahmadi
- Amit Patel
- Malinda Zhu

**ATTACHMENTS**

**Attachment 1:** Multicultural Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

**Attachment 2:** Summary of Recommended Nominees (*Confidential*)

# CITY OF MONASH

## MULTICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### TERMS OR REFERENCE

September 2022

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**Name:** Multicultural Advisory Committee (MAC)

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**Scope:** The aim of MAC is to provide Council advice on multicultural issues and on the implementation of Council's *Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025*

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#### **Objectives:**

- Provide feedback and advice to Council on its policies, plans and services that impact CALD communities
  - Consider and provide advice on key Government initiatives, programs and reviews
  - Advocate on behalf of CALD communities
  - Liaise with and support other community consultative structures of Council and Council funded agencies
  - Consider funding and other opportunities as they may arise
  - Assist Council to promote the benefits of cultural diversity within the Monash municipality and beyond
  - Provide advice to Council with its communication, engagement and consultation with CALD communities
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#### **Membership**

The MAC membership will consist of up to sixteen community members and will include representation from:

- Council
- Residents
- Community Organisations, Agencies and Service providers who have a focus on provision of services to CALD communities in Monash
- Community Groups

All MAC positions are voluntary positions.

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## **Selection process**

The selection committee will include the Portfolio Councillor/s, Director Community Development & Services and/or Manager Community Strengthening and Community Wellbeing Coordinator. The committee will assess the nominations against the selection criteria and recommend appointments to Council.

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## **Requirements for members (criteria)**

Advisory Committee members will be able to demonstrate:

- Knowledge and understanding of the needs and issues affecting CALD communities
- An interest and involvement in local and/or broader multicultural community affairs, advocacy and networks
- An interest and understanding of Local Government services and programs from a multicultural community perspective
- The ability to contribute to the strategic development of multicultural policy at local government level
- Direct links to local ethnic community populations and/or organisations
- Experience and/or understanding of the role of an advisory committee

Council will aim to ensure that members of the Committee reflect the diversity of the Monash community including ethnicity, age, gender and different geographical areas across Monash.

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## **Terms of Appointment**

- Appointments will be for a two year term
  - Council will appoint a Councillor to Chair the meetings
  - MAC members completing a two year term may re-apply for a further two year term
  - The membership of the Committee will be reviewed as part of the on-going review and implementation of *Council's Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021 - 2025*
  - The operations of the Committee will be evaluated annually to ensure it continues to be effective and relevant
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## **Meeting Frequency and Duration**

- The MAC will meet bi-monthly for a duration of two hours
  - It is expected that each member attend a minimum of 60% of all meetings
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## **Working Groups**

The MAC may establish Working Groups/Parties to address specific issues as they arise.

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## **Role of Councillor**

- To act as Chairperson of the MAC
  - To be the link between Council and the MAC
  - To table issues and concerns to Council on behalf of the MAC
  - To nominate another Councillor to attend meetings in his/her absence
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## **Executive Support**

- The Community Strengthening Unit will provide Executive support to MAC.
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## **Accountability**

- MAC members have an active role to provide feedback and advice to Council on issues relating to cultural diversity within the municipality
  - MAC members participate in discussions at bi-monthly meetings
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## **Evaluation and Review**

The MAC Terms of Reference and membership will be reviewed and evaluated on an annual basis

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## **Reimbursement of expenses**

Individual members of the Committee will be reimbursed for any transport costs they have incurred in participating in meetings and related activities.