

MINUTES OF MULTICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

- Present: Councillor, Barbara Ward (Chairperson)
Councillor, Indu Balachandran (Deputy Chairperson)
Mayor, Cr Christine Kay
Inga Rosenberg
Bob Sudharshan (online)
Maria Florencia Amigo
Tony Pang
Mahjabeen Zaman
Nasrin Azizi
Unis Yim-Wah Goh
Jacqueline Lobo (online)
Hwa Sur Park (online)
Anthony Ching
Jingni Shen
Feilin Chan
Anna Ji
Vivian Dederko
Upala Sunthankar
- Staff Present: Director Community, Janice Bevan
Manager Community Development, Danny Houseas
Manager Visitor Experience and Events, Melanie Morson
Community Development Officer, Leonie Endacott
Senior Landscape Officer, Fleur Rees
- Others Present: CEO Lifeline Harbour to Hawksbury, Elizabeth Lovell
CEO KYDS, Carol Simpson
- Apologies: Jingni Shen, Committee member
Cr Matt Devlin
Cr Sam Ngai
Cr Jeff Pettett
Cr Martin Smith

The Meeting commenced at 11:05 AM

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interest was declared.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

NOTING OF MINUTES

MCAC
13

Minutes of Multicultural Advisory Committee

File: S04141

Meeting held 18 June 2025

Minutes numbered MCAC07 to MCAC12

The Committee Recommends:

That Minutes circulated were taken as read and confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings of the Meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

GENERAL BUSINESS

MCAC
14

Green Grid Strategy - Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Community Consultation Strategy

File: S04141

Vide: GB.1

Fleur Rees – Senior Landscape Architect, Ku-ring-gai Council.

Fleur Rees provided an overview of Council's draft Green Grid strategy, and proposed engagement strategy for culturally and linguistically diverse residents [attached].

The Chairperson Cr Ward encouraged Committee members to share details of community members, leaders, or organisations that could support the Green Grid Strategy and help promote it within the community.

Recommendations from Committee members include:

- Engagement to diverse communities should extend beyond people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities to include older residents and people with disability.
- Green grid strategy should ensure connectivity for older people.

General Discussion:

Council has established Engagement Champions, representatives from various teams who focus on engaging with residents. The Multicultural Advisory Committee can support these efforts by connecting with residents from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities.

The Committee Recommends:

For members of the Multicultural Advisory Committee to receive and note the proposed Green Grid consultation strategy.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MCAC
15

Calendar of Culturally Significant dates

File: S04141

Vide: GB.2

Leonie Endacott – Community Development Officer, Ku-ring-gai Council.

Leonie Endacott presented suggested dates of cultural significance relevant to the Ku-ring-gai demographic [attached].

Council intends to share these dates via online channels to educate the broader community.

Committee members suggested the following additional dates for consideration:

- Sankranti/Songkran – New Year celebration in South and South-East Asia (around 14 April).
- Vesak (Buddha Day) – celebrated by all Buddhist traditions, recognising the

- birth, enlightenment and passing of the Buddha (generally in May).
- **St Patrick's Day** – commemorating the death of Saint Patrick, patron saint of Ireland (17 March).

General discussion:

- The Committee Chairperson Cr Ward stressed that the Multicultural Advisory Committee plays an important role in feeding information into Council and requests that members contact us with any further suggestions from their communities.
- Cr Ward informed the Committee that the primary goal of the calendar is to educate the broader community of important cultural days so that the whole community can come together to celebrate.

The Committee Recommends:

For members of the Multicultural Advisory Committee members to receive and note the dates of cultural significance.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MCAC
16

Mental Health in Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities

File: S04141

Vide: GB.3

Elizabeth Lovell – CEO Lifeline Harbour to Hawksbury (H2H) provided an overview of Lifeline's services, in particular services for people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities (presentation attached):

- Lifeline H2H is the second largest deliverer of talk and text services in Australia
- They have over one thousand active volunteers in the area
- Thank you extended to Cr Barbara Ward for her long service as a Lifeline Board member.

Risks and challenges for Culturally and linguistically diverse communities include:

- Barriers to social integration
- Language or cultural barriers to services
- Stigma
- Possible additional stressors for migrant populations due to migration, discrimination and financial stress.

Three main areas of opportunity:

- Engagement and prevention
- Crisis support intervention and aftercare
- Recovery and keeping people safe longer-term

Service successes:

- Targeted social media campaigns have led to 7,596 people accessing assistance via Lifelines website
- Connect Library Hubs at Lindfield, Hornsby and Chatswood, Chatswood Library offering bi-lingual English/Mandarin and English/Cantonese support
- Everyday Counsellor workshop now delivered in Mandarin

Carol Simpson – CEO KYDS provided an overview of KYDS' services (presentation attached):

- KYDS provide mental health services for youth aged 10-18 years of age
- KYDS provided 10,500 youth counselling sessions last year
- 50% of lifetime adult mental health issues arise before the age of 18

Risks and challenges for Culturally and linguistically diverse communities include:

- Stigma
- Differences in cultural models of distress
- Belonging concerns
- Youth mental health outcomes can be affected by families not understanding the need for support or choosing to wait

Service responses for culturally and linguistically diverse residents:

- Counsellors in multiple languages
- Parent information packs and parent information sessions now available in Mandarin, Farsi and Hindi sessions coming next year.

General discussion:

The Committee Chairperson Cr Ward thanked Lifeline and KYDS for the services they provide and asked Elizabeth Lovell and Carol Simpson what support the Multicultural Advisory Committee could provide.

Elizabeth shared that the key difficulty they face in providing services is reaching culturally and linguistically diverse communities, and establishing effective referral pathways, the Multicultural Advisory Committee members could help facilitate this by sharing widely their communities.

Volunteering possibilities were discussed for communities represented by multicultural advisory committee members. This suggestion was warmly received by Elizabeth and Carol, Lifeline in particular has retail and community care volunteer positions available.

For further information on volunteering opportunities please see Council's website: [The Volunteer Hub Ku-ring-gai](#)

The Committee Recommends:

For members of the Multicultural Advisory Committee to receive and note this report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

OTHER BUSINESS

Events update – Melanie Morson, Manager Visitor Experience and Events

Gai-maraigal Festival:

The 2025 Gai-mariagal Festival ran from 26 May through to 14th July.

2460 attendees enjoyed the 11 Events during the festival across 5 Venues (St Ives Showground, Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden, Ku-ring-gai Art centre, Ku-ring-gai Library & Wahroonga Park)

Partners that participated in the event were:

- Gai mariagal Group
- Gawura Cultural Immersions
- Freshwater Education

- Baagi Milaygin
- Aboriginal Heritage Office
- Koori Kinnections
- Ku-ring-gai Library
- Ku-ring-gai Art Centre
- Aboriginal Affairs NSW \$2000 Grant for NAIDOC Week Activities

Arts and Cultural Festival :

The 2025 Arts and Cultural festival took place from 14 June through to the 24 July. 5362 attendees enjoyed the 25 events on offer across the 15 venues including Council venues both open space and built venues, schools, private galleries, and local shopping centres.

Partners that participated in the event were:

- Ravenswood School for girls
- Ku-ring-gai Art Society
- Arts National
- Ku-ring-gai Art Centre
- Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden
- Ku-ring-gai Philharmonic Orchestra
- Ku-ring-gai Youth Orchestra
- Grace Cossington Smith Gallery
- Depart Gallery
- KAB Gallery
- Sanskriti A School of Indian Performing Arts
- Eryldene
- Pymble Players
- Cerebral Palsy Alliance
- Macquarie Singers

Council's events team partnered with the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee, chaired by Cr Balachandran and vice chaired by Cr Ward, to produce the Create Ku-ring-gai event. This event brought more than 60 Ku-ring-gai creatives from across disciplines together to brainstorm ideas to invigorate the arts in Ku-ring-gai.

A grant application has been submitted to Multicultural NSW to contribute the 2026 Multicultural Festival. Members are invited to share partnership or performance ideas for the 2026 Multicultural Festival.

Welcoming Cities Initiative - Cr Barbara Ward, Chair Multicultural Advisory Committee

The Committee Chairperson, Cr Ward, informed the Committee that, following the presentation by Turkan Aksoy at the previous meeting, Council had been approached by Welcoming Cities to join the initiative. Cr Ward outlined the two-tier membership structure: regular membership, which is free, and platinum membership, which incurs an annual cost of \$3,000. Cr Ward sought the Committee's feedback on whether Council should join the initiative.

The Committee Recommends:

That Council join the initiative at the regular membership level.

At this stage of the meeting, the Committee Chairperson, Councillor Ward, sought a 15-minute extension as the meeting had exceeded the scheduled finish time of 12:30 pm. This was unanimously agreed by Committee members, and the extension was granted.

Gordon Pymble Uniting Church – Courtney Heyden

Courtney Heyden shared with the members Gordon Pymble Uniting Church's outreach initiatives including Tai Chi, the Dementia Choir and their new Secret Garden café – staffed by trainees with a disability.

NSW Homelessness Strategy – Unis Goh, Multicultural Advisory Committee member

The 10 year NSW Homelessness Strategy was launched on 8th August, it is a whole of government approach to addressing homelessness in NSW.

The strategy is attached for the information of members.

Use of Recording or Artificial Intelligence in Committee meetings - Cr Barbara Ward, Chair Multicultural Advisory Committee

The Committee Chair, Cr Barbara Ward, reminded members that, as per the Terms of Reference, meetings must not be recorded without her approval.

The Meeting closed at 12:40PM