

Twelfth Annual General Meeting Tuesday 23 October 2018

Chair's Report – Chin KF Wong

Introduction

I wish to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land we are meeting. We respect their continuing culture and the unique contribution they make to the life of this area. We acknowledge all the people who have come to settle in the land of Australia as their home, the rich cultures these people have brought to this country and for the contributions they make to this country. We are all proud to be Australian as we embrace and celebrate the success of Australia as a multicultural society.

It is my great pleasure to present the Executive's annual report as the CMCF Chair to the members of the Canberra Multicultural Community Forum (CMCF) Incorporated at this Twelfth Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 25 October 2018 at the Theo Notaras Multicultural Centre.

It has been twelve years since the inception of the Canberra Multicultural Community Forum (CMCF) Inc. We have kept up our strong commitment to continue to work with our membership towards providing strong leadership and act as the Multicultural Voice of ACT.

As an effective peak community organisation we currently have financial membership representing over 100 ethnic community organisations and 30 individual members and one life membership. I wish to thank and acknowledge our members for their continuous strong support to CMCF.

The year as the new Chair of CMCF started off on a positive note for me personally, for receiving the ACT Government's Multicultural Advocacy Award for over 30 years of community advocacy and volunteer work for the multicultural community and the Chinese community in the ACT. I appreciated the support given to me by my peers and community.

Year of progress – promote multicultural diversity

The role and work of CMCF is to support its members, the ethnic communities in the ACT, while ensuring the concept of multiculturalism is represented positively to the Australian community at large.

CMCF, as the Peak community organisation and continue to work towards providing strong leadership and act as the Multicultural Voice of ACT.

We will continue to pursue with the government to develop an inclusive, community-consulted and led multicultural policy that listens to, understands and commits to addressing the priorities and needs of the diverse multicultural communities.

CMCF welcome the newly appointed Minister for Multicultural Affairs and will work with new members of the ACT Office of Multicultural Affairs. We are excited of the prospect of new changes ahead and is looking forward to the involvement and participation of the coming Multicultural Summit.

Taking over as the new Chair, setting up the agenda to continue working steadily, actively ensuring the voices and the needs of multicultural communities are heard at both Territory and Federal levels.

Our commitments:

- develop better communication strategies in working more closely with our multicultural community groups to develop an inclusive community, understands and commits to addressing the priorities and needs of the newly arrived migrants, refugees and established multicultural

communities, including the health and wellbeing and special care needs of multicultural seniors; and the support of the multi-faith forum events. We have achieved through our attendance and representation at various community events and forums organised by our members' own peak community organisations and conducting our own community forums to address issues that have impacts on the multicultural communities.

- Continue to support a dedicated multicultural women's voice with the continuing development of the Canberra Multicultural Women's Forum until such time that they are ready to be established as an independent organisation, representing the voices of CALD women in the ACT. The Women's Forum is going from strength to strength and has just launched the CALD women's consultation initiative Report with recommendations to develop best practice in communication with CALD women, in particular, to reach out to women who generally would not participate in or know about or to get involved with events and activities for their communities;
- Plan and have conducted a series of community development programs for community capacity building with various topics include immigration issues, domestic violence, navigating health system, community insurance policies and other community education programs have been conducted throughout the year with the aim to support our new and emerging communities;
- Better representing the ACT Multicultural community locally and nationally by responding to public policies and made submissions to voice our concerns. We encouraged the use of community expertise to advise and contribute to submissions included paper on Climate change Adaptation Strategy, End of Life Submission; Victim of Crime support Charter, Planning migration Intake.

Representation

CMCF Executive committee meets on Second Thursday of the Month to discuss matters affecting the ACT multicultural community and develop strategies and actions to ensure CMCF continues to represent the ACT multicultural community at community participation forums, and continue to put forward a strong voice and views in response to various national / local issues that are of significant interest and of concerns to our community.

CMCF current activities, participation, and achievements so far for the period ending October 2018

November 2017

- CMCF elected New Executive Committee for 2017-2019
- Appointment of CMCF to the ACT Multicultural Advisory Council.
- Attended International Tolerance Day Event hosted by CIF and CMCF
- Met with Feros Care partnering with NDIS offering new services to Multicultural community.
- Conducted Community workshop on Immigration, Family Reunion and Immigration issues.
- CMCF new website go live
- Attendance at the Advancing Community Cohesion Conference in Western Sydney University
- Submitted Annual Return
- NEMBC Conference held in Canberra
- IWIn – Celebrate ORANGE Day Event – Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls
- Completed online survey on the future use of Theo Notaras Multicultural Centre
- Renewal of PL Insurance policies for CMCF members

December 2017

- Developed new CMCF Action plan for 2017-2019.
- Attended the ACT Government Multicultural Award Presentation.
- Attended the ACT Health Multicultural Reference Group December Meeting.
- CMCF submission to "Have a say - the future use of Theo Notaras Multicultural Centre

- Application to National Multicultural Festival Information Stall
- Attended consultation for Office of Mental Health

January 2018

- Met with Rotary Club of Canberra to organise Peace Bell Harmony Event
- Held a Community Conversation Forum to discuss the “End of Life Choices in the ACT”

February 2018

- Participated in the National Multicultural Festival Feedbacks and evaluation survey.
- Attended the ACT Multicultural Advisory Council meeting to define the Council’s priority.
- Attended ACT Climate Change Q&A event
- CMCF participated as a speaker at the National Identity and Global Education Forum Panel
- Submission to Federal Government “Managing Australia Migrant Intake” Discussion paper

March 2018

- Met with SCoA to discuss CMCF submitting membership registration to SCoA
- Response to ACT Volunteer Draft Action Plan
- Attended the RASH meeting
- Attended Roundtable on ACT Climate Economics
- CMCF Senior Multicultural SMiLES Network March meeting
- CMCF World Peace Bell Harmony Day Event
- CMCF supported and attended FemFest 2018 Event
- Attended ACTH Multicultural Reference Group meeting
- Submission to the Inquiry on “End of Life” and attended Inquiry committee session
- CMCF Forum - “Interactive Community Forum on ACT’s next Climate Change Strategy”

April 2018

- CMCF Forum – “Victims Charters of Rights” Consultation and summary report
- Feros Care presentation to CMCF executive committee meeting
- Attended an Extraordinary Meeting of Domestic Violence Prevention Council
- Submitted activity report to RASH Coordination Committee Meeting
- Completed SurveyMonkey Evaluation of the PICAC program conducted by Department of Health.
- CMWF conducted a series of Women’s Consultation with 7 different community groups
- Attended CIC Inauguration of Masjid

May 2018

- Attended 2018 Women's Budget Briefing Morning Tea
- CIF and CMCF joint National families Week Event – “Importance of Faith in Family Life”
- Meeting with Office of Multicultural Affairs
- Multicultural Matters Meeting
- CMCF Senior Multicultural SMiLES Network Meeting

June 2018

- Meeting with Regional Director NSW/ACT Lesley Dalton, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs
- June 21st 2018 – Elder Abuse Day
- CMCF Senior Multicultural SMiLES Network Meeting

July 2018

- Workshop – Access for CALD community to the ACT Magistrates Court for protection from Family Violence
- CMCF General Meeting – “Rights of Victims of Crime Charter”
- People of Disabilities ACT met with CMCF Executive Committee
- FINACT forum to discuss Government Inquiry into Dowry practice

August 2018

- CMCF – Community Public Liability Insurance Information session
- Attended UCH Alignment survey
- Attended the Launch of the 'Speak My Language' Program

September 2018

- Attended the Australian Citizenship Day celebration and Youth Forum at Old Parliament House.
- Attended ACTCOSS "Emerging Leaders Project for ACT Community Services Industry Strategy".
- CMCF Submission – New Inquiry into ACT Public Libraries" & attended Inquiry Committee session
- Attended Multicultural Round table discussions for preparation of Multicultural Summit
- Sponsored African community Soccer Tournament and attended the African Australian Awards

October 2018

- Attended CMWF Launch of the Report on Best Practice
- Met with PICAC NSWACT project officer to discuss the coming CALDways information Expo for seniors to be held in November 2018.
- Presentation of "My Health Record" sessions to CMCF Senior Multicultural SMiLes group
- Attendance at the Companions House Annual General Meeting

CMCF Programs:

Community Development Programs

The Executive committee work closely together to identify community learning needs and continuously to update and design the program to encourage better participation. We acknowledge the support and contribution of Suzanne Eastwood for organising and facilitating the various successful events.

CMCF Multicultural Seniors Network – SMILE program

The senior multicultural information learning exchange (SMILE) program is part of the CMCF Multicultural Seniors Network activities. The Multicultural Seniors Network continues to meet regularly on the first Saturday of the month. The main aim is to connect our seniors and community leaders together to promote community participation and healthy ageing activities, build links with community sectors and improve access to information on aged care and community support services. Currently, I am the facilitator for this network.

Community Public Liability Insurance

CMCF has established an affordable community public liability insurance policy scheme for \$20,000,000 cover renewable yearly. Over 65 organisations have now joined the scheme and are benefitting from the reduced premium fees. The scheme is administered by Carol Keil and CMCF acknowledges her dedication to ensure that the renewals and new applications are processed in a timely manner.

Community Language and Education

CMCF continues to support meetings regularly with the ACT Directorate of Education. They have proved a valuable opportunity for the ACT Community Language Schools Association and other groups involved in promoting language maintenance and learning, such as the ACT Bilingual Education Alliance, to share information and encourage cooperation across sectors. CMCF acknowledges the tireless contribution made by Dr Mandy Scott for organising various successful events to promote children learning languages.

2XX Multicultural Voice

The Weekly Multicultural Voice Radio program Presented by CMCF committee members with Mandy Scott and Victor Marillanca as the regular and lead presenter is another CMCF initiative that provides opportunity for smaller community groups to promote their organisations and provided regular

interviews with prominent leaders including politicians to discuss variety of current affairs and issues of interests.

ACT Policing and Crime prevention

Despite frequent changes, ACT Policing continued to work closely together to develop strategies to connect with communities to promote the community interface between ACT Policing and the multicultural community. CMCF is working closely with the Multicultural Police Liaison Officers and the Crime Prevention team unit with various projects, targeting community safety; youth at risk and young refugees' activities programs, neighbourhood watch programs and multicultural policing volunteers programs.

CMCF effective role as Peak Multicultural Community Organisation in the ACT

As an independent peak community organisation representing the interests of the ACT Multicultural community, CMCF has been proactive and has been well represented and participated in various peak organisation consultation forums at both Federal and Territory Government levels, thus enabling us to represent our communities, influencing new policy developments, especially in the area of migration and settlement planning; aged care reforms, transport issues, housing issues and urban planning issues.

Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs

CMCF continues to liaise with the Multicultural Liaison Officers from the Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs program, Department of Home Affairs. We provide feedback of the current state of affairs in the multicultural community and feedback on the skilled migration and migration intake.

ACTH Multicultural Reference Group

CMCF continue to pursue the need to partners with Consumers in Health care setting and in doing so, we will maintain our presence by meeting regularly and providing input into valuable policy and strategies in developing the ACT Health Care Services Framework such as the use of quality interpreters.

Relation with Federation of Ethnic Community Council (FECCA)

CMCF continues to assist the Federation of Ethnic Community Council of Australia (FECCA) throughout the year, providing support as ACT advocate with various national community projects, attended various consultation forums and is currently a member of the National CALD communities Aged Care Reference Committee, thus ensuring that there is an united voice being heard that is truly representing the ACT multicultural community at the National level. We will continue to pursue the required changes of FECCA's outdated constitution to appropriately endorse CMCF as the representative body for ACT.

Funding and resources

CMCF, like many other organisations, rely on grants for funding. CMCF acknowledged and thanks the ACT Government's support and its acknowledgement of CMCF as the peak community organisation. The provision of annual funding under the multicultural community Sector Development funding program enables CMCF to maintain a small office at the Theo Notaras Multicultural Centre and to provide advocacy services for the multicultural community; organise community consultation forums to seek new ideas about the National Multicultural Festival; organise activities as part of community support to celebrate the National Multicultural festival.

Influencing Public Policy and Decision Making Process

Throughout the year, CMCF responded to ACT Government invitations and attended various community consultations and focus group meetings and speak on issues affecting the multicultural community in the ACT.

Strengthening and building CMCF Strategic partnership

CMCF continue to nurture the productive working relationship established with key representative/ Peak organisations that form part of the ACT Community:

- As an affiliated community organisation of Health Care Consumers Association, representing the multicultural community to address issues relating to health care needs and well beings of the community, especially matters affecting the heightened needs of multicultural community and participated as a health care consumer representative.
- As a member of ACTCOSS (ACT Council of Social Services), participating in various community sector consultations, representing the CALD community to identify, discuss and address social policies and community issues ;
- Attended RASH (Refugee Asylum Seeker and Humanitarian Co-ordination Committee) meetings which address issues of concern to these groups.
- National Ethnic Disability Alliance promoting the interests of disabled people by lobbying government to ensure the needs of multicultural community accessing disability services are being met in a culturally appropriate way.
- Working closely with Council of the Ageing (COTA), supporting various projects initiated by COTA especially in relation to transport and housing issues.
- Connect with SCoA as an associate member to strengthen the support for new migrants, refugees and participated in its publication.

The future – Canberra where we belong

The fast changing pace of issues facing society in general and the needs of the multicultural community specifically means that we need to ensure we are prepared to take on the issues that arise. There is a real need to form an alliance with diverse multicultural communities to provide support to each other's to ensure Canberra remains the Multicultural city of the world.

Looking forward

I would like to thank the executive and committee for their tireless work and commitment to CMCF and is looking forward to move into our election year for the new term.

I present this report to you



Kui Foon WONG (Chin)

Chair

Canberra Multicultural Community Forum Inc.

Tuesday 23 October 2018