



Canberra Multicultural Community Forum (CMCF) Incorporated

Thirteen Annual General Meeting Thursday 14 November 2019 Chair's Annual Report – Chin KF WONG

Acknowledgement:

I wish to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land we are meeting on, the Ngunnawal people. We respect their continuing culture and the unique contributions 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 Annual Report as the CMCF Chair to the members of the Canberra Multicultural Community Forum (CMCF) Incorporated at this Thirteen Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 15 November 2019, at the Theo Notaras Multicultural Centre Harmony Room.

Thirteen year on.....Multicultural Voice of ACT

It has been thirteen years since the inception of the Canberra Multicultural Community Forum (CMCF) Inc. as we now established our strong hold as the recognised ACT Peak Multicultural Community Representative Organisation. We currently have financial membership representing over 100 ethnic community organisations and 30 individual members and one life membership.

As I finish my first term as the Chair of CMCF this year, I like to thank my Executive committee for their support, as we kept up our strong commitments to continue to work with our membership towards providing strong leadership, advocate on behalf of our multicultural community and act as the Multicultural Voice of ACT. I thank and acknowledge our members for their continuous strong support, the virtue of you becoming a member is demonstrative of your continuous support and recognition of Canberra Multicultural Community Forum Inc. as an effective peak community organisation.

Who we are

CMCF's vision is for a fair, inclusive and harmonious Canberra community supports and celebrates cultural diversity. We value respect, justice, integrity and diversity. Our object is to have a unified voice and a single peak body to promote the common interests and articulate the purpose and direction of the multicultural community in the ACT and act as a strong multicultural voice of ACT.

Reflection of our commitments and achievements:

Over the year, CMCF has worked on our commitments, to raise our profile as the peak representative organisation, supporting our members organisations, advocating and ensuring the voices and the needs of multicultural communities are heard at both the Territory and Federal levels of Government.

We have acted independently with confidence and worked with The Federation of Ethnic Communities Council, as a non-member partnership. We often invited to provide inputs and participate in various consultation forums including attending parliamentary/ Senate enquiries within our own rights.

We have appropriate representation at the ACT Ministerial Multicultural Advisory Council and is excited with the outcomes of the Multicultural Summit with the renewal of the ACT Multicultural Policy Framework as guiding principle, providing the impetus for the communities to take actions to ensure the concept of multiculturalism is represented positively to the community at large.

We continue to represent the ACT Multicultural community at community participation consultation forums; and we continue to put forward a strong voice and views in response to various national /local issues that are of significant interests and concern to our community.

The ACT Government announcement of Canberra has joined the Welcoming Cities Network on Harmony Day 2019 was new to the community and the standards thus put the responsibility to all of us to identify practical actions to ensure Canberra continues to be a welcoming and supportive place, including migrant and multicultural communities.

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Another constructive and important project is the ACT Wellbeing Indicators project that CMCF has now been working with the ACT Government to ensure that the multicultural communities are engaged in the conversations about what is important to the wellbeing of Canberrans.

CMCF acknowledged our current Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Mr Chris Steel MLA, for his support of the multicultural communities and in particular, the recognition of CMCF as an effective ACT Peak multicultural community organisation.

Looking at the year ahead, as we are reminded that the ACT elections is less than one year away. We have been active in our connection with various politicians on one to one basis, progressing our concerns as well as organising various forums and general meetings throughout the year.

Flash back in 2016 ACT Election statement:

CMCF in cooperation with ACTCOSS developed a policy statement of the needs of Canberra Multicultural community. Three years on, this statement continued to be relevant as of today, as it read:

“Develop an inclusive community-consulted and led multicultural policy that listens to, understands and commits to addressing the priorities and needs of ACT Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples, newly arrived migrants, refugees and established multicultural communities (including the health and pastoral care needs of multicultural seniors) and their faith-based groups.

Defending multiculturalism, build on multicultural celebrations and take action to engage at grass roots, build broad community acceptance with understanding and address racism and exploitation”.

Reflecting on what we have achieved so far as we continue to be working with our community member organisations to ensure that multiculturalism does not slip off the agenda and .

CMCF is determined to pursue with the government and the opposition to develop an inclusive community-consulted multicultural policy that listens to, understands and commits to addressing the priorities and needs of the diverse multicultural communities, as well as appropriately resources to ensure the achievable outcomes are actioned and supported.

A Year of Progress – Our commitments:

CMCF received small community service sector development funding and we have delivered our commitments to:

Develop better community engagement & communication strategies

- We have achieved through our representation at various community events and attendance at forums organised by our members' community organisations as well as conducting our own community forums to address local / national issues that are of significant interest and concern to our multicultural communities.

Continue to support a dedicated multicultural women's voice & family relationship

- By auspicing the Canberra Multicultural Women's Forum to obtain funding to work on projects and continue to develop its strength and capability to represent the voices of CALD women in the ACT; CMCF continue to be working with other Women organisations to encourage and motivate greater participation in building capacity and sharing their knowledge and experiences.

Conduct community development and capacity building program

- By conducting various community development programs and engaged in community conversations to encourage community members to have a say about issues that may impact on the multicultural communities. Forums such as Discussion on the Foreign Influence Transparency scheme; Have a say about the Aged Care Services; successful application programs.

Advocate for and representing the ACT Multicultural community locally and nationally

- Responding to public policies and made submissions to voice our concerns locally and nationally. We make submission such as the Royal Commission into Aged Care Services and Quality which was accepted and published on the website. We participated in round table consultations and community forums representing the Multicultural Voices of ACT.

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(Reference: CMCF current activities, participation and achievements for the period ending October 2019)

2018-19 CMCF Key performances – advocate for multicultural communities

CMCF Executive committee

CMCF Executive committee meet on Second Thursday of the Month. The committee address matters affecting the ACT Multicultural community and develop strategies and actions to ensure CMCF continues to represent the ACT Multicultural communities as an effective Peak community organisation. We often consult our members and seek their expert advices related to subject matters. I would like to acknowledge the ACT Policing for their support and attendance at our monthly meetings to provide feedbacks and seek advices on engagements with various communities.

CMCF Multicultural Seniors Network – SMILES Program

The Senior Multicultural Information Learning Exchange Support Program is established to promote CMCF Multicultural community leaders to meet together once a month on the first Saturday of the month. The network aims to connect our seniors and community leaders to get together to build links with community sectors and improve access to information on aged care and community support services. Throughout the year, the group has broaden its topics and address the future Paths to My Aged Care issues; Advanced Care Planning workshops; and self-care.

Community Public Liability Insurance

CMCF has established the Public Liability Insurance policy scheme for \$20,000,000 cover renewable yearly. The scheme has now expanded to cover for content, volunteers and public liability. Over 65 organisations have 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 the new applications and renewals are processed in timely manner.

CMCF Community Development Programs

We acknowledge Suzanne Eastwood, who contributed her time to assist CMCF to identify community learning needs and continuously to update and design practical workshops and facilitate the various successful events. Recently, we have completed the project with FECCA to deliver the Donate Life awareness campaign to encourage multicultural communities to consider and register as donor. We have made commitment to develop Corporate Governance and finance management workshops for the community; promote mental health and wellbeing; health literacy and how to navigate health system.

The Multicultural Voices of ACT – FM 2XX 98.3 Monday 12MD

The weekly Multicultural Voice Radio program presented by CMCF committee members with Mandy Scott, Victor Marillanca, our volunteer presenter Vesna Cvjeticanin. The radio program provides opportunity for smaller community groups to promote their organisations and provided regular interviews with prominent leaders from community sectors and politicians to discuss matters of interests to the multicultural community. The recent broadcasts could be heard at <https://www.2xxfm.org.au/Form/programdetail/?canberra-multicultural-voices>

ACT Policing and Crime Prevention

CMCF and ACT Policing has established a working relationship and continued to work closely together to address community concerns and develop strategies to connect with communities as a way of improving community interface between ACT Policing and the multicultural communities. We appreciate the support of the ACT Policing and wish to thank Police Multicultural Liaison Officer Patrick Castle, who has regularly attended CMCF Executive committee meetings whereby at times robust discussion concerning police matters were discussed, resulting with the community gaining better understanding of the police work and impact on their community.

Community language and Multilingual Education

CMCF acknowledged Dr Mandy Scott's tireless contribution and her continuous work in pursuing on the development of the ACT Language policies and promotion of the Mother Tongue Language celebration event.

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Multicultural Health Reference Group

The restructure of the ACTH Directorate provides a few challenges as CMCF continue to work with Health Care Consumer Association Inc. to pursue the need to partners with Consumers in Health Care setting and in doing so, we are determined to continue to maintain our presence by meeting regularly and provide inputs into health care policies, especially in the area of Health Literacy and address matters relating to quality of health care services and the use of quality interpreters.

CMCF Relationships with Federal / Territory Agencies

As an independent peak community organisation, CMCF make extra efforts to be proactive and has been well represented and our executive committee and committed advisors have been actively participated in various peak organisation consultation forums at both Federal and Territory Government levels. This enable us to represent our multicultural communities, influencing new policy developments, especially in the area of migration and settling planning, provide feed backs on various federal grant programs; participated as independent assessor of major grant programs; aged care reforms and review of My aged care services; review of harmony week programs. CMCF continue to liaise with the Multicultural Liaison Officer from the Department of Home Affairs and often provide feedbacks of the current state of affairs in the multicultural community and feedback on skilled migration and family reunion program.

Throughout the year, CMCF responded to ACT Government invitations and attended various community consultations, focus group meetings and speak on issues affecting the multicultural community in the ACT. We hold general meetings and forums to engage community in conversations with issues such as domestic violence; health literacy; racism, community safety and encourage community to provide feedbacks through the government's online consultation hub where the community can have a say to influence government's decision.

Relation with Federation of Ethnic Community Council (FECCA)

For thirteen years, CMCF has effectively represent ACT Multicultural Communities as the ACT Advocate and has attended various national consultation forums, representing ACT in our own rights, thus ensuring that there is an united voice being heard that is truly representing the ACT multicultural community at the National level. CMCF will continue to pursue the required changes of FECCA's outdated constitution to ensure that the CMCF is the rightful representative organisation for the ACT.

Strengthening and building CMCF strategic partnership

Throughout the year, CMCF continue to build cohesive and productive working relationship with key representative / Peak organisations to form part of the ACT Community, working together to develop strategies in influencing public policy and decision making processes/

- As an affiliated community organisation of Health Care Consumers Association, ensuring that the multicultural community's health care and community services needs are being addressed through the appropriate forums.
- As a member of ACT Council of Social Services (ACTCOSS) peak community forum; participating in various community sector consultation, representing the multicultural communities to identify, discuss and address social policies and community issues, especially in the areas of housing, employment.
- National Ethnic Disability Alliance promoting the interests of disabled people, participating in various community consultation and NDIS agencies to promote services to multicultural communities.
- Working with Council of Ageing (COTA) as a member of the Policy Committee, representing multicultural community's views on ageing and aged care issues and is a members of the Elderly Abuse Prevention Network.
- Represent multicultural community as a member of the Capital Health Network community Advisory Council

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- As a member of the Settlement Council of Australia to strengthen the support for new migrants, refugees and contributed to its publication / newsletters and provide inputs on submissions.

Funding and resources

CMCF acknowledged ACT Government for the provision of annual funding of \$16,000 under the multicultural community sector development funding program ending in June 2019 enables CMCF to maintain a small office at the Theo Notaras Multicultural Centre and provide advocacy services for the multicultural community and delivered scheduled commitments as agreed. It is anticipated that future funding for volunteer peak organisation will be required to go through the appropriate procurement processes as well as competing for other grant opportunity.

The future – some facts and figures

The fact that Australia is the most ethnically diverse country in the world with 26% of Australians being born overseas and 49% of people having at least one parent born overseas. Australia has 100 religions and 300 ethnic groups in our cultural melting pot. 21.7% of people in ACT speaking a language other than English at home. 14.4% of people in the ACT is 65 years and over.

The current changing pace of issues facing the multicultural community and the needs of the multicultural community to promote social inclusion means that we need to ensure we are prepared to take on any issues that arise.

There is a common feeling amongst the community leaders that there is a real need to form an alliance with diverse multicultural communities in the ACT, to build closer working relationship and provide support to each other's, and are prepared to move quickly to ensure our voices are heard loudly and clearly.

I strongly believe that CMCF will continue to grow from strength to strength, as we are prepared to elect the next two year term of Executive Committee members to carry on the work to advocate for the community and take actions to ensure Canberra remains the Multicultural City of the world.

Present this report to you to be accepted

Chair CMCF 14 November 2019



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CMCF Current activities, participations, consultations, invitations and achievement so far for the period ending October 2019.

November 2018

- Review of ACT Services Access Card
- CMCF Executive Committee November meeting
- SMILES Group November Monthly meeting
- Multicultural Summit Round Table Discussions & responded to the Discussion paper
- Attended 2018 ACT Violence Prevention Awards night
- Attended 2018 Australian Crime and Violence Prevention Awards Ceremony
- Nominations submitted for 2018 ACT Multicultural Awards
- ACT Elder Abuse Prevention Network Meeting
- CALD Ways Information Day for Seniors 19 November 2018 Hellenic club
- Volunteers ACT – Volunteering and Multicultural Communities Workshop
- RASH Coordination November Meeting
- Standing Committee – Review of ACT Libraries Enquiry submission
- My Health Record Opt Out information Session

December 2018

- Attended Chief Minister's address to stakeholders and community representatives.
- Support letter to Minister on Condemnation of Anti-Semitic attacks in Canberra
- CIF Commemoration of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Audit and review of CMCF Website
- Survey on Volunteering and Settlement in Australia
- Harmony Alliance Membership Invitation
- Canberra Peace Bell event
- Attended Multicultural Awards
- Foreign Influence Transparency Scheme consultation
- Invitation - ACT Neighbourly Network Meeting
- CMCF Multicultural Representative – 2XX elected President of Board for 2018-19
- CMCF Public Liability Insurance renewals for 72 members
- Invitation to Women in Need Workshop National Library
- Consultation – the future of cemeteries

January 2019

- CMCF lease agreement
- Language Mother Tongue Multilingual Poetry

February 2019

- Feb 2019 CMCF Open Discussion Forum – Foreign Influence Transparency Scheme
- Energy Efficiency Improvement Consultation
- ACTCOSS Sector Peak forum meeting
- Consultation of Australia's 2019-2020 Migration program
- Languages showcase at Multicultural Festival
- Celebrating International Mother Language Day 2019
- Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety – invitation to Submission
- Canberra Celebrate Diversity and Inclusion - Second Round table consultation sessions
- Multicultural Health Reference February Meeting

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March 2019

- Speak My language project Community consultation
- Launch – 2019 National Multicultural Festival
- Importance of Interfaith dialogue in today's environment – CIF session
- Harmony Day – Everyone belongs CMCF Word Peace Bell event
- Harmony Day event with the Jewish Community
- Attendance – ACT Women's Award 2019
- British High Commission – Celebrate International Women's Day event
- SMILES March meeting
- Feedback Australian Charter of Health care Rights – Survey monkey

April 2019

- April 2019 – Community Consultation – Do you have a story to tell about Aged Care
- Award of Fostering Integration Grants to Canberra Multicultural Women's Forum auspiced by CMCF
- CMCF community consultation open forum – RC into Aged Care Quality and Safety
- Meeting the Candidates Event 30 April 2019
- Input – Multicultural sensitivities in Bereavement policies
- Comments – Aged Care labour agreements to support migrant communities
- CMCF Grant application writing small group workshop
- SMILES meeting

May 2019

- FECCA 40th Anniversary at Government House
- National reconciliation Week program 27/5-3/6 2019
- 2019 Youth Representative to the United Nations- organised Youth group meeting
- Multicultural Health Reference Group May meeting
- Women in Media Forum FM91.1
- ABC invitation – Interview
- CMCF website – maintenance and update
- SMILES meeting
- RASH Coordination Committee Meeting
- Theo Notaras Multicultural Tenants Forum
- ACT Government – signing up as Welcoming City

June 2019

- ACT Budget briefing
- Women's Health Service Consultation Workshop
- Importance of Belong public forum
- ACTCOSS peak community Forum
- Meeting with Chin Tan Racial Discrimination Commissioner in Canberra
- AAGACT Forum – The Royal Commission on Aged Care – what can it do and how can you contribute
- Invite AFP to speak on Multicultural Voice of ACT
- Multicultural Matters Meeting
- Evaluation of ACT Multicultural Summit
- FECCA – Organ Donation project Information Session -
- MMILES meeting

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July 2019

- CMCF Submission to Royal Commission Aged Care and Safety
- ACT Government launch on line Community panel
- Meeting with Minister Steel MLA 4 July 2019
- Christian Jewish Dialogue Group meeting
- A Celebration of Culture and Respect – Companion House
- ANU Language Teaching Forum
- Release of the National Plan to respond to the Abuse of Older Australians

August 2019

- Multicultural Health Reference Group August meeting
- CMCF General Meeting – Minister for Multicultural Affairs and ACT Chief Police Officer
- UnitingCare Kippax – introduce Kippax Pathways
- Women Second Action Plan Consultation with CMCF
- SMILES August meeting
- Multicultural Matters Meeting
- Invitation – Farewell Gai Brodtmann IWIN supported by CMCF
- ACT Multicultural Award Ceremony – Multicultural Ambassadors

September 2019

- Theo Notaras Multicultural Centre Tenant Forum
- Meeting with Chair, ACT Multicultural Council
- Yoursay.act.gov.au – Wellbeing Indicators – engaging with community organisations
- Energy Consumer Advocacy Workshop
- ACT Multicultural Seniors Roundtable Forum Proposal
- Australian Citizenship ceremony 2019
- ACT Culturally diverse creatives/arts workshop
- Parliamentary Inquiry into Nationhood, National Identity and Democracy
- Canberra Moon Festival invitation
- Celebration of African Australian Awards ACT 2019
- World First Aid day focus on CALD groups
- Wellness Indicators team – meeting with CMCF Committee
- Re-Envisioning Older Persons Mental Health Forum
- Importance of Belonging – Identity and Change
- Launch of New ACT Climate Change Strategy and Living Infrastructure Plan
- Donate Life Promotion Project – Group 1
- Consultation on the future direction of Australia Harmony Week celebration

October 2019

- Community Leaders Breakfast – with Andrew Leigh MP
- Consultation – Peer mentors for Community Diabetes awareness project – target groups
- ACTCOSS Peak member's forum
- Aged Friendly City Plan consultation forum
- Importance of Belonging – Voices of Tomorrow and Today
- ACT End of Life and Palliative Care Forum
- National Multicultural Festival consultation
- ACT Electoral Commission's Disability Advisory Committee
- Invitation to Mental health Month Events
- MARSS Australia Inc. re Brand Launch
- Donate Life project promotion Group 2
- Invitation to 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji.
- ACT Australian of the Year announcement

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