

Seventeen (17) Annual General Meeting Thursday 30 November 2023

CMCF Annual Report (Nov 2022- Nov 2023)

Presented by Chair, Chin KF Wong

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the Ngunnawal and Ngambri peoples who are the traditional custodians of the land we are meeting on this evening and recognise any other people or families with a connection to the lands of the ACT and region. We respect their continuing culture and the unique contribution they make to the life of this city and region and pay respect to the elders, past and present, of all Australia's Indigenous peoples.

We also 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 the contributions the migrants make to this country. We are all proud to be Australian as we embrace and celebrate the success of Australia as a vibrant multicultural Society.

FROM THE CHAIR

It is an honour for me, to welcome you all and present the 2023 Executive annual report at the 17th Annual General Meeting held on 30 November 2023.

As I finish the last term as the Chair of CMCF this year, I like to thank my executive committee for their support, as we keep 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.

About Us – Canberra Multicultural Community Forum Inc.

CMCF's vision is for a fair, inclusive, and harmonious Canberra community that supports and celebrates cultural diversity, including multilingual languages and interfaith.

We value respect, justice, integrity, and diversity.

Our membership is strong, and with over 112 ethnic community organisations and associates being members, demonstrates your continuing support for the work that CMCF does and helps to influence the role and work of CMCF as an effective peak multicultural body, ensuring the concept of multiculturalism is represented positively to the Australian community at large.

On behalf of the ACT Multicultural community, CMCF continues to strive to represent and pursue with the government at the local and national levels alongside other key National Peak Advisory bodies, to advocate and deliver positive outcomes for Canberra's multicultural community.

WHAT WE DO

CMCF Executive Committee meets regularly on the second Thursday of the Month either online or face-to-face to discuss matters affecting the ACT multicultural community; develop strategies and actions to ensure CMCF continues to represent the ACT multicultural community at community participation forums, 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's aim has been to better represent the ACT Multicultural community locally and nationally; responding to public policies and making submissions to voice our concerns.

Our focus has been on:

- Developed better communication strategies by providing target information to our membership and supporting our multicultural community groups to develop an inclusive community.
- Committed and worked collectively to address the priorities and needs of the newly arrived migrants, refugees, and established multicultural communities. Issues such as Health literacy matters, health promotion, and well-being topics, promoting healthy lifestyles, identifying special care needs of multicultural seniors, women's matters, access to services, government public policy issues, and mental health needs.

We have achieved this through our attendance and representation at various community events and forums organised by our members' own community organisations and conducting our own community forums to address issues that have impacts on multicultural communities.

We encouraged the use of community expertise to advise and contribute to submissions. Submissions included the Review of Migration program, National Multicultural Framework review, Human Rights and anti-racism community consultation, Climate change Adaptation Strategy, Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill, and Multiculturalism Bill.

We acknowledge the ACT Government for providing CMCF with much-needed funding from our successful application of various grant programs; strengthening our capability to assist and support our community groups; the ability to disseminate information and the opportunity to reach out to our membership.

The support of the ACT Government in recognition of Canberra Multicultural Community Forum is a peak multicultural body representing a broad range of ethnic and associated community organisations in the ACT will continue to strengthen our capability to expand our reach and influence, working with government agencies, organizations, communities, and individuals, to ensure voices are heard and valued.

KEY EVENTS AND PROGRAMS**CMCF Community Leadership Reception November 2022**

With our transition out of COVID restriction and the success of establishing our communication network throughout the pandemic periods, we hosted a successful community leadership reception in November 2022 to end our COVIDSAFE campaign program. The purpose of this reception is to bring together our multicultural community leaders, including the diplomatic corps to share friendship, to interact with each other, to promote and celebrate multiculturalism, and to thank your support to make Canberra a welcoming city and promote harmony.

Sadly, throughout the pandemic time, we have witnessed the increased incidences of racial abuses, experienced by many community groups and individuals. We use the opportunity to focus on our theme of this evening – Racism, It Stops with me campaign.

National Multicultural Festival CMCF Information Stall Feb 2023

CMCF held our multicultural information stall at the festival, providing an opportunity for our members to display their activities and event information. We also distributed free COVID information and free kits.

Voice to Parliament Community Forum – May 2023

As part of addressing the information challenge to recognise First Nations in the Australian constitution, the CMCF hosted a special information event for our members. We acknowledged the support of a one-off donation from the ACT Government to assist with the running of the event.

Community Referendum Forum – August 2023

We organised a community forum and invited the Social Policy Group which was engaged by the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) to conduct Referendum Community Information Sessions for culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities with the aim of helping all eligible voters participate in the first referendum held in more than 20 years.

FECCA – CMCF partnership involvement – October 2023

CMCF has written to the Federation of Ethnic Community Council of Australia (FECCA) with the support of the ACT Minister for Multicultural Affairs, stating our position as the recognised peak multicultural body representing ACT multicultural community to work with FECCA and represent the ACT.

We are committed to collaborating with FECCA to ensure that ACT's multicultural community is well represented at the national level alongside other key National Peak Advisory bodies. We have been successful in obtaining FECCA project funding to conduct multicultural community consultations to inform the development of the National Anti-Racism Framework on 10 December 2023.

CMCF Community Development Projects

In the coming months, CMCF will be enlisting our community groups to work on a few significant projects: through some of the grants received:

- Advance Care Planning project with the aim to increase the awareness and uptake of Advance Care Planning in the ACT Community.
- Anti-Racism campaign with the aim to establish a multicultural community leaders community conversation forum to promote the Anti-Racism Stop with Me campaign.
- Senior Multicultural Community Leaders Network with the aim of hosting senior community conversation groups and continuing to work with service providers to support our growing population.
- Explore our multicultural community's needs and promote a better understanding of Disability Services accessible to multicultural communities.

ADVOCACY AND REPRESENTATION

As the peak body for multicultural communities in the ACT, CMCF continues to advocate for and represent and be an active voice for the improvement of programs and services for the multicultural community:

CMCF attended regular **Elderly Abuse Network** with membership derived from community services providers, program deliverers, advocates and policymakers, offering avenues to voice concerns and share community experience in addressing the abuse of older people in our community.

CMCF attended the regular **ACT Regional Aged Care Network** community forum has been established by the Federal Government to improve outcomes of older Australians living in the ACT and would like to encourage our senior community groups to participate in the forum.

CMCF attended the regular **CHN Community Advisory Council** as a member of the multicultural community representative to provide advice and recommendations to the Board to ensure that strategies and initiatives are consumer-focused, cost-effective, locally relevant and aligned to improving local healthcare experiences and expectations.

CMCF attended the regular **Community Service Directorate update** online meetings and will continue to engage with various community service sectors to ensure our older CALD communities are able to have access to home help support services. The development of the Age-Friendly City plan will ensure that the multicultural community is consulted and included in the development of future action plans.

CMCF attended as a member of the **ACT Mental Health Multicultural Reference Group** to review the mental health support needs of multicultural communities and develop community engagement strategies and initiatives to enhance the mental health and well-being of multicultural communities in the ACT.

CMCF attended as a member of **ACTH Palliative Care Community Forum**, contributing comments and advice on the development of resource materials and information sensitive to clients' needs from diverse backgrounds.

CMCF continued 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.

CMCF attended the **ACTH Preventive Health Action Plan 2023-2025** feedback consultation session and provided feedback to ensure actions developed are relevant to the needs of the community.

OUR IMPACT

Community public liability insurance

CMCF continues to offer a long-standing community public liability insurance policy scheme for \$20,000,000 cover, renewable yearly. The scheme has now expanded with cover for contents, volunteers as well as property. The assessment form is comprehensive. Over 65 organizations 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 ensuring that new applications and renewals are processed in a timely manner.

CMCF Liaison with ACT Policing

CMCF Acknowledged and thanked ACT Policing for their continuous support and regular liaison with CMCF and for their attendance at CMCF Executive Committee meetings to address issues affecting multicultural community groups and linkage to communities who may need assistance.

Multicultural Voice of ACT Radio program – 2XX FM98.3 – Monday 12:00-12:30

Vale – Victor Marillanca 26 September 2023 Life member, CMCF.

The multicultural community mourn the death of Victor Marillanca. For 47 years, Victor presented a Latin America program on 2XX FM. Victor is a strong advocate for multiculturalism. He will be remembered forever. CMCF has contributed in Victor's memory, to 2XX multicultural broadcaster training fund.

The weekly Multicultural Voice Radio program is presented by CMCF committee member Dr Mandy Scott. We thank her for her dedication in hosting the program and we do encourage our community members who are interested in radio broadcasting, to get involved and support this program. Mandy conducts regular interviews with prominent community sector leaders and often discusses matters of interest to the multicultural community. The broadcasts may be heard at :

<https://www.2xxfm.org.au/Form/programdetail/?canberra-multicultural-voices>

Community language and multilingual education

CMCF attends the regular Language Network meetings in support of the Community Language Schools, and provides inputs with the development of ACT Language policies. CMCF acknowledges Dr Mandy Scott's tireless contribution and continuous work in pursuing the development of the ACT Language policies and promotion of the Mother Tongue Language celebration events.

ACT Ministerial Multicultural Advisory Council (ACTMACM)

The ACT Multiculturalism Bill was passed and implemented as of 1st September 2023. Eleven members of the ACT Ministerial Advisory Council for Multiculturalism were appointed. The Council will directly advise the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, on the aspirations, needs, and concerns of people from CALD backgrounds who call Canberra home. CMCF will endeavor to work with the Council to ensure that multicultural communities are consulted through various avenues.

Community Development/participation events

CMCF supports our member organisations in their efforts to organise information sessions/workshops and celebrative events and provide guidance and assist new and emerging communities to apply for grants and funding. CMCF will continue to seek funding in support of community organisations and plan to work in partnership with identified community groups and service providers to deliver information and training sessions focusing on community capacity building, health promotion, health literacy and legal Aid services.

Community engagement with stakeholders and our community

Throughout the year, CMCF representatives continue to build strong cohesive and productive working relationships by attending various consultations / co-design / workshops to ensure that multicultural communities' needs are addressed. Some of the consultative workshops attended by CMCF representatives included:

Representation and contributions to:

- ACT Council of Social Services (ACTCOSS) peak community forums and other consultative forums
- Canberra Primary Health Network Community Engagement Advisory Council

- Council of Ageing (COTA) attending Elderly Abuse Network meetings
- RASH committee as a community representative organization, supporting new and emerging communities to set up their own support organisations
- Service Australia Multicultural Advisory Forum Southwest NSW ACT
- Settlement Council of Australia Network and free Webinar meetings
- Elderly Abuse Network
- Multicultural Representative on 2XX Board of management
- CMCF ACT Representative - National Ethnic Disability Alliance
- Education Network committee to provide input to Language and Education Policies
- RIOACT to support our multicultural community to promote their events
- Health Care Consumers Association Older People Network

Building on our key strengths

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

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 action to ensure Canberra remains the Multicultural City of the world.

I present the Annual report to you

Signed



Kui F Chin WONG

Chair CMCF

contact: 0417686096

email: chair.cmcf@gmail.com

personal: chin.kf.wong@gmail.com

Chair, Canberra Multicultural Community Forum Inc.

Appointed Member, ACT Ministerial Advisory Council for Multiculturalism

President, ACT Chinese Australian Association Inc.

Summary of Chair Report:

We acknowledge the Ngunnawal and Ngambri peoples who are the traditional custodians of the land we are meeting on this evening and recognise any other people or families with a connection to the lands of the ACT and region. We respect their continuing culture and the unique contribution they make to the life of this city and region and pay respect to the elders, past and present, of all Australia's Indigenous peoples.

We also 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 the contributions the migrants make to this country. We are all proud to be Australian as we embrace and celebrate the success of Australia as a vibrant multicultural Society.

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CMCF's aim has been to better represent the ACT Multicultural community locally and nationally alongside with other peak Advisory bodies; responding to public policies and making submissions to voice our concerns. We have written to Federation of Ethnic Community Council of Australia, stating our position and the support and recognition from ACT Minister for Multiculturalism, Tara Cheyne, that CMCF is well positioned to work with FECCA and represent the ACT.

As the peak body for multicultural communities in the ACT, CMCF continues to advocate for and represent and be an active voice for the improvement of programs and services for the multicultural community:

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Throughout the year, CMCF representatives continue to build strong cohesive and productive working relationships by attending various consultations / co-design / workshops to ensure that multicultural communities' needs are addressed. Some of the consultative workshops attended by CMCF representatives.

In the coming months, CMCF will be enlisting our community groups to work on a few significant projects: through some of the grants received. This includes Advance Care Planning; Senior Network, Disabilities Community Consultation;

We look forward eagerly to the 2024 National Multicultural Festival; and working collaboratively with our members.