

Sixteenth Annual General Meeting Tuesday 22 November 2022**CMCF Annual Report (Nov 2021- Nov 2022)****Presented by Chair, Chin KF Wong****Acknowledgement of the Country**

We wish to acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the land we are meeting on this evening, the Ngunnawal people. We respect their continuing culture and the unique contribution they make to the life of this city and region. We pay respect to their elders of past, present, and future.

According to 2021 census, 28.7% of ACT population were born overseas. The 2021 Census found that almost half of Australian have a parent born overseas (48.2%) and the population continues to be drawn around the globe, with 27.6% reporting a birthplace overseas. 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 for 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.

On reflection – CMCF 2019-2022 Strategic Directions and work plan

- Strengthening the Multicultural Community Communication Network and promotion of community harmony
- Building capacity and community resilience and fostering integration into the Australian Society
- Promoting social justice, equity and addressing incidences of racial discrimination in the community
- Being an effective peak multicultural organisation by building strong alliances and partnerships

It's a great pleasure to present the November 2021- October 2022 Annual Report to members of the Canberra Multicultural Community Forum (CMCF) Incorporated at this 16th Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 22nd November 2022 at the Theo Notaras Multicultural Centre.

2021-2022 has been full of unprecedented challenges to the organisation, but despite of the restriction, CMCF members and executive committee continue to devote their volunteering time to represent our members and advocate for the multicultural communities. Communication is open and our members continue to be kept informed through various social media platform and our prompt correspondence with delegates. I would like to acknowledge the dedication of our Treasure and membership officer, Malcolm Mahon, who have taken on the task of ensuring all incoming information are disseminated to our members promptly. We do welcome members feedback and appreciate the support provided to CMCF.

Your membership acknowledges CMCF as an effective peak community organisation and remain strong and standing up as an effective representative body projecting the multicultural voice of ACT. Currently, our membership consists of 110 community organisations and associated members.

Our Year's achievements

Impact of COVID-19, one year on...

The implementation of COVIDSAFE measures throughout the year continue to post challenges to the communities holding cultural events and we are grateful that the communities continue to be vigilant as we are not out of pandemic yet as the latest reported indicated.

Since the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic continues, CMCF executive committee observed the social distance and venue restriction on group gathering, the committee continue to meet online / face to face when required, as well as communicate through social media platform. CMCF is committed to provide daily update on cases, COVID-19 Vaccine's information, and government COVIDSAFE directions. CMCF participated in the community engagement forum and working with ACTH COVID Senior Multicultural Engagement officer to relay community concerns and identified needs and seeking ways to reach out to section of multicultural communities, especially the new and emerging communities to ensure all the government supported / relief programs could be reached and accessible where it was required. CMCF appreciated the work of many communities' charity and volunteers' organisations who work tirelessly to support not only their own communities but sharing generously to whosoever seeking the much-needed assistance.

CMCF acknowledged the support of ACTCOSS and opportunity for CMCF to voice the concerns of multicultural communities and incorporated our concerns to ACT Government, welcoming some of the key recommendations in the ACT COVID report:

- ACTH further develop the quality and transparency of ACT Government communications on public health directions and other measures in relation of COVID-19;
- Use lessons learnt from the effective partnerships developed between ACT Government and the ACT community sector during the 2021 COVID-19 outbreak to respond to future community needs
- Ensure adequate funding for community services, including mental health support services in response to the needs of Canberra Community.

We acknowledge the ACT Government for providing CMCF with much needed sector funding during 2021 to strengthen our capability to work with community sectors to disseminate information and opportunity to reach out to our membership on daily basis with updated information. We thank Sam Wong AM on taking on the task of screening through the data by providing a daily summary report through out the last two years. CMCF will continue to advocate and monitor and ensure communities could access to information and support services.

Work in partnership with FECCA and SCoA on community consultation project report on COVID-19 vaccine intake and impact of COVID-19 on community and hosted successful online public community forums targeting multicultural community group during the COVID restriction periods. The forum highlighted the lack of awareness / inability of community in accessing simple COVID related information; there is lack of trust / fear / anxiety with vaccination intake; the lock down / confinement at home and lack of access / contact to relief support during isolation; children education and learning online placed tremendous strain on family relationship. Translated information in different languages are available and accessible to communities and it is important that our members have the information to access the details.

CMCF wish to acknowledge the ACTH team for their continuous support and participated in the forum to answer questions.

Key programs and events – COVID SAFE

Harmony Day Peace Bell Ceremony – 20 March 2022

Working closely with Rotary Clubs of Canberra and Canberra Burley Griffin, seven languages were added to the Peace Pole that we unveiled in 2020 as part of the celebration of Harmony Day and marks the 15th year Anniversary of the establishment of CMCF. The peace pole carries the wording “May Peace Prevail on Earth “in seven languages. We are working on the development of extra peace pole to be elected on site, carrying more multicultural languages in near future.

CMCF Community Forum

We managed to host a face-to-face community general meeting with on line facility, inviting Office of Multicultural Affairs and National Multicultural Festival team to inform the community about the latest consultation process relating to the to report on the development of Multicultural Recognition Act (now known as Multiculturalism Bill). CMCF has submitted our response relating to the Bill.

Federation Election 2002 meet the candidates Forum – 15 May 2022

CMCF hosted a successful Meet the Candidates forum ensuring ACT Multicultural Voices are heard. Over 22 candidates attended the forum to put their viewpoints on:

- The impact of pandemic led to serious health economic and social consequences for multicultural communities across Australia, especially in the ACT and surrounding region
- Understanding the needs of Australia’s multicultural communities and current multicultural policy
- what is the path towards Australia’s multicultural success?

We congratulated Katy Gallagher, David Pocock, David Smith, Alicia Payne, Andrew Leigh for their success and sincerely hope that they will make an effort to engage and support the multicultural communities

Unlash Resilience of multicultural community Expo – focussing on Mental Health and Wellbeing – August 2022

After much delay due to venue restriction, the community table Expo was organised with 21 organisations participated in the event which was held on 14 August 2022. CMCF was pleased to receive positive feedbacks as the community services shared their information and presented the programs to the participants. We acknowledge the support of Hand Across Canberra to make this possible. The Expo highlighted the golden opportunity for community service providers and program deliverers the opportunity to share information, to promote their services to multicultural communities who otherwise would have little knowledge and understanding the services available and how to access them should there be a need arises. We have set aside some follow up program to continue with our goal to work closely with community sectors and identify the heightened needs of multicultural communities, especially in the areas of disability and mental health matters.

CMCF means business – our achievements

Community public liability insurance

CMCF's continue to offer 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

Community's Mental Health and wellbeing matters

In developing our new Action plan for 2022-2024, we plan to develop closer working relationship with Mental Health Sector such as Mental Health Foundation and Mental Health Consumer Network, to establish much need multicultural community partnership, working together to promote better mental health to CALD communities in ACT and surrounding region. We have provided support to:

- SiTara Story project to encourage CALD communities to tell their stories especially during the COVID-19 periods.
- Mental Health and Wellbeing consultation forum / co-design workshops to develop new Action plan.
- Attended and contribute to the development of ACT Mental Health Strategic Action Plan
- Contributed to Mental Health Policy and Strategy workshops

CMCF Multicultural Seniors Matters

CMCF is grateful to receive senior grant in 2019 to continue with the development of support network for our older communities. The small grant enabled us to develop

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ABN 55662738508
Multicultural Voice of ACT

Chair: Chin KF WONG

Senior individual self-care planning portfolio and the plan to resume our face-to-face SMiLe Program when safe to do so. Planning is underway to recommence the network activities in early new year.

Working with CHS on a project to promote Advanced Care Planning to multicultural communities takes a lot of dedication and planning with the aim to involve community leaders willing to be involved and take on the role to promote the program through their community network. It is a relative

CMCF Partners with MCCI – Encompass program – navigating MyAgeCare

Since the project was launched in December 2021, it has reached out to the target groups and hosted various community round table discussion sessions. Many senior social support groups have been initiated benefited many communities, who are able to enjoy participating actively in community life.

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

CMCF is pleased and welcome that a new ACT Regional Aged Care Network community forum is 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 will continue to engage with community services sectors to ensure our older CALD communities able to have access to home help support services. The development of Age-Friendly City plan will ensure that the multicultural community are consulted and included in the development of future action plan.

CMCF Liaison with ACT Policing

CMCF Acknowledged and thank 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

The weekly Multicultural Voice Radio program is presented by CMCF committee member Dr Many Scott We thank her for her dedication in hosting the program and we do encourage our community members who is interested in radio broadcasting, to get involved and support this program. Mandy conducts regular interviews with prominent community sector leaders and often discuss matters of interests 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 provide inputs with the development of ACT Language policies. CMCF acknowledges Dr Mandy Scott's tireless contribution and the continuous work in pursuing the development of the ACT Language policies and promotion of the Mother Tongue Language celebration events.

ACTH Quality Community Engagement Forum

CMCF participated in the regular COVID related community engagement Discussion Forum to keep informed of the COVID related policies and renew information made available to disseminate to the communities and the support/relief services that are accessible to communities affected by COVID-19.

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.

2022 National Multicultural Festival cancellation

CMCF expressed our disappointment on the cancellation of the 2022 NMF. However, it was acknowledged of the uncertainty to protect public safety during the high of pandemic.

The Minister announced that 2023 Multicultural Festival will go ahead and it will be focussing on community participation. CMCF Chair joined the NMF community Panel Reference Group as one of the 5 appointed members to support the NMF team to promote better community engagement and to ensure the festival returned to the community with the view that the multicultural communities are all together, support each other, sharing with each other's to celebrate multiculturalism. We look forward to the 2023 NMF in earnest.

ACT Ministerial Multicultural Advisory Council (ACTMAC)

CMCF Chair is a member of ACTMAC and is pleased that the Multiculturalism Bill was tabled at the ACT Assembly in October 2022 waiting for the debate of the Bill to go through by early March 2022. We are pleased that some of the recommendations were reflected in the Act which include.

- A clear definition of multiculturalism
- Recognise and enhance the freedom to share culture, heritage, language, and social cohesion.

Disability Action Plan

In support of the multicultural disability community, CMCF is in the process of setting up a small Multicultural Disability community reference group to promote the disability services.

Effective community engagement with stakeholders and our community:

Throughout the year, CMCF representatives continue to build strong cohesive and productive working relationships by attending various consultation / 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:

- Health Care Consumers Association
- 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 community representative organisation, supporting new and emerging communities to set up their own support organisations
- Service Australia Multicultural Advisory Forum Southwest NSW ACT
- Breast Screen Advisory Committee
- Settlement Council of Australia Network and free Webinar meetings
- Elderly Abuse Network
- Support MIEACT My Mind, My Voice program
- 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

Consultation / attendance at:

- ACT Pathways Forward supporting Older Canberrans
- Mental Health matters and support services
- Aged Care Services Reform sessions
- Palliative Care and End of Life CALD community consultation
- ACTH Multicultural Health Reference group
- Procurement and commissioning webinars to gain better understanding of process on commissioning of services
- Violence Legislation Amendment Bill 2021
- CHS Research Workshop
- Review of the Family Violence Act 2016
- Australia's Disability Strategic Plan Co-design workshop
- Multicultural Recognition Act community consultation forum

- Federation of Ethnic Community Council Australia Conference – Melbourne
- NDIS Disability Strategic Plan consultation

The Future

“2021 ABS data identified Australia is a migration country with 27.6% of population were born overseas. And 47% of people having at least one parent born overseas. CMCF, with 110 community members organisations, will continue to work together, to ensure that the multicultural communities ‘ voices are heard.

There is more work for the CMCF to find ways to work with and help our communities, including newly arrivals and refugees and asylum seekers. There is also a need to encourage younger community leaders from our respective communities prepared to take on further roles in representing the multicultural communities. We look forward to work together with supportive organisations to continue to build community resilience and capacity and create opportunities for the communities to regain confidence and meet the changing post COVID-19 world.

As we enter the new year in 2023, CMCF thank all our members for their support and for organising cultural events and we look forward to the community to get together to show case their culture at the National Multicultural Festival.

I present the report to you

Signed



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