

Whittlesea Multicultural Issues Network

Terms of Reference

Whittlesea Multicultural Issues Network (WMIN) is a local settlement planning committee facilitated by Whittlesea Community Connections which aims to increase the life opportunities and resources available to migrants and refugees and address any barriers that newly arrived community members face in settling well into the Cities of Whittlesea and Nillumbik and surrounds.

Through effective service co-ordination, information sharing, and a focus on emerging issues and changing community needs, WMIN will assist service providers to achieve better settlement outcomes for migrants and refugees in the City of Whittlesea.

Structure

Meetings occur on:

The third Tuesday of the month, every second month (bi-monthly)
from 9.30-11.30am

Whittlesea Community Connections (WCC),
Shop 111 Epping Plaza, Epping, Victoria 3076

Focus

The focus of the WMIN is to:

- Provide updates on settlement data and changes to the local population
- Discuss implications of policy issues and procedural changes within government and non-government agencies
- Advocate around key issues of significance to newly arrived communities in the Cities of Whittlesea and Nillumbik
- Discuss community profiles and statistics
- Seek out opportunities for partnership work, service co-ordination and a reduction in the duplication of services
- Share information on programs and projects of significance to newly arrived migrants (with a focus on reporting new initiatives)
- Suggest improvements in the service system to improve outcomes for local communities
- Provide a chance for networking and linking between key settlement and generalist organisations

Organisations can forward documents or further info for distribution to the network via the facilitator.

Communication

WMIN has a role in communicating local planning needs back to Local, State and Federal Government stakeholders in order to improve responsiveness to emerging need.

This can be achieved by identifying issues, writing letters, participation in forums and giving impact statement about policy changes such as to the Victorian Settlement Planning Committee, Victorian Multicultural Commission, Local Council or the Department of Social Services (Settlement).

Key issues the network may identify as priorities include:

- Employment
- Education and training
- Housing access and affordability
- Access to services/interpreters
- Family, parenting and early childhood issues
- Youth development and participation
- Relationships and family violence
- Migration issues
- Legal issues
- Discrimination, racism, dehumanisation
- Health including mental health
- Recreation and leisure
- Transport and road safety
- Social inclusion, community belonging and local participation
- Awareness and acceptance of diversity
- Media representation
- Service co-ordination including between generalist and settlement specific agencies and between asylum seeker and refugee services.

Member organisations*

Anglicare Victoria, AMES Australia, the Brotherhood of St Laurence, City of Whittlesea (including Baseline Youth Services), Department of Human Services (Centrelink), Department of Social Services (Immigration), Drummond Street Services, Family Relationship Centre (Greensborough and Broadmeadows), Jesuit Social Services, Kildonan UnitingCare, Mind Australia, NEAMI, Northern AMEP Counselling Service, Melbourne Polytechnic, Office of Andrew Giles MP, Plenty Valley Community Health, Spectrum MRC, Victorian Arabic Social Services, Vic Department of Human Services, Victoria Police and Whittlesea Community Connections.

*Some members actively take part in meetings, and others elect to receive minutes in order to maintain an overview of the issues for the region.

Contact

To receive minutes and agendas for forthcoming meetings, please contact:

Kate O'Sullivan,

Manager, Settlement Services

Whittlesea Community Connections

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