

Multicultural Youth Affairs Network Meeting Minutes

Chair: Alex Long
Minutes: Hannah Lai
Location: Multicultural NSW
Date: 17 August 2017, 10am – 1pm
Present: See attendance sheet
Apologies: Cristian Soto-Hernandez (TAFE NSW), Elizabeth Story (NSW Mental Health Commission), Claudia Encina (Community First Step), Salvin Kumar (Advance Diversity Services)

Item	Notes	Actions / Questions on Notice?
1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country • Introductions (turn out of almost 70 people!) • Welcome by Hakan Harman (CEO of Multicultural NSW) 	
2. Previous Minutes & Business Arising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of minutes: Angus Megarrity, Georges River Council • Minutes seconded: Cherise Ricciardo, Cumberland Council 	Alex to send out Fairfield settlement data once it is received from DSS in September. Data from the Settlement Reporting Facility accessed prior to this date is indicative only and is not the official collated data.
3. Presentations	Apajok Biar (Youth representative in Geneva) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22 years old, born in Kakuma Refugee Camp and has lived in Australia for 20 years. • Representative of Australia & NZ at UNHCR to guide follow up discussions regarding Global Refugee Youth Consultation Report. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met with the African beareua, speaking on panels, and Refugee Council of Australia’s workshop on self-representation. Highlighted that there needs to be more self-representation – less than 8% of people at the UN gathering were former refugees. Asked UNHCR in what ways will they make sure that refugee youth voices are heard and emphasised that there needs to be a youth voice on the task team. ‘ • Apajok & Arash Bordbar (one of the other youth representatives) followed up in with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) to ensure there is a refugee youth advisory position at a recent meeting in Canberra. Youth inclusion in the developing of programs is essential. • Global Refugee Compact report recommends countries to resettle, but also recommends countries of origin to find local solutions so there is no need to have refugees in the first place. For example, building infrastructure to include not only refugee population to local population as well. • Apajok recommended instead of asking what are the challenges, it’s about asking what YP’s aspirations are. <p>Key points from youth advocacy panel with Apajok Biar, Pip Collins (WSU) & Atem Atem (Fairfield Council)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If young people’s voices are not heard they will just give up. • YP are constructed as a problem. Listening is not enough, because YP’s voices should not be passive. Participation (one-off or tokenistic) vs engagement (embedded & ongoing). • Reluctance to engage with YP often comes with reluctance to change. Assumed that YP don’t know enough of the issue to be involved or they don’t have good ideas. Complexity of the issue combined with the complexity of YP – often assumed that community or research organisations can represent YP. • Incorporate digital artefacts with what YP are already doing • Voices of lived experience are very important. If it’s a problem that they are facing, they are most likely thinking about a solution. How can we assist in the solution? • Often we expect young people to fit into our systems and institutions as they are, without thinking that we might need to change or adapt them to be suitable for YP. • It’s about dignity & respect. Things are done on behalf of certain community groups. Whatever solution is being made by external forces cannot resemble a solution devised by someone going through the hardship. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [I hope for] a government that represents its people, diversity of background, diversity is strength. A place where the colour of your skin does not impede you from accessing opportunities. David Jones 'apologised' for having a person of colour on their magazine front cover. • YP don't engage with political system because of fear. Will I be taken seriously? Do I feel empowered enough to go the whole journey? • Community leaders – the journey to Australia constructs a view of a young person differently, how 'Sudanese' is that young person? Intergenerational conflict and hard to find acceptance from wider society. What is home? Family displacement in their journey. Parents feel alienated from their children. • Example of Tamworth from a few years ago how the South Sudanese community worked with local police to move forward. Apajok aiming for the first national South Sudanese youth summit so YP can learn how to navigate the system, be empowered. 	
<p>4. MYAN NSW Update</p>	<p>Multicultural youth census</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MY Australia is a partnership between the university of Melbourne, MYAN in each state and Australian research council to get survey on how multicultural young people are fairing. • Target of 2,500 yp in NSW • 20 minutes to complete, prizes for YP • Website includes the knowledge hub: connections and all you want to know about multicultural YP, a collection of surveys about a specific indicator (for ex. Research on yp and their digital inclusion) • http://www.multiculturalityouth.net/index.html <p>MYAN National conference in Melbourne 23-24 November 2017</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theme: Rethinking new policy and practice agenda • MYAN can sponsor young people, contact Alex for more details alex@myannsw.org.au • There are lots of opportunities for young people to speak • MYAN currently planning speakers and panellists 	<p>Alex currently on planning group for conference to follow up on whether people could put forward a topic to be discussed (asked by Majidi from MNSW)</p>

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<p>5. General Business & Info Sharing</p>	<p>Dor (SSI) update on Humanitarian Settlement Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2017-2018: 2,794 humanitarian arrivals meaning 10,350 individuals • country of birth: 50% Iraq, 41% Syria, Myanmar, Afghanistan, Congo, Iran • language: 73% Arabic, 17% Burmese related language, 8% Dari, 5% Swahili, 3% Farsi, Caldea, Tibetan, Hazaragi • Ethnicity: Arab, Assyrian, Caldean (Iraq), Armenian, hazara, Tibetan • 1796 youth with peak months of arrival between November – April 17. Male 51%, female 49% • Children 0-5 ages: 760 • 6-14 ages: 1,878 • Elderly: 770 <p>Issues arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people school enrolment in Fairfield / Liverpool IECs are at capacity • Parents want stability (accommodation) before they enrol • Accommodation affordability and number of available properties declining • Referrals to NDIS very slow • School registration needing immi-cards, how to access opal cards if you don't have immi-cards • Youth project officer position coming up soon with SSI around Fairfield <p>Transition from Humanitarian Settlement Services to Humanitarian Settlement Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant changes in service providers across the country. Nationally, from 10-12 provider down to 5. • NSW is SSI (Sydney, West, North) & Red Cross (South Sydney, illawarra, canberra). SSI taking over contracts done by anglicare and navitas. Red Cross has many services for people seeking asylum and will be taking over contracts from Navitas, Vinnies and multicultural council of Wagga Wagga. New contracts October, transition of clients. AMES is Vic, SA and TAS. Red cross is WA. Mellaluca in ACT. • HSP includes HSS and Complex Case support. In some states, several organisations will be sub-contracted so there will be continuity of care. Focus is on employment and job readiness. 	<p>Alex to share the HSS Local Area Coordination report which includes all the HSS data for 2016/17.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSW Mental Health Commission – invitation to showcase at parliament on wellbeing or social connection during October (mental health month) with the theme as Young People. Contact alexander.barwick@mhc.nsw.gov.au • Advocate for Children and Young People are currently recruiting youth advisory council for 2018 in the ACYP, made up of 12 children and young people aged 12-24 around the state, regional & urban representation. Role is to advise the minister and advocate. www.acyp.nsw.gov.au • Multicultural NSW Regional advisory council for Hunter & Central Coast are looking for a youth council. http://multicultural.nsw.gov.au/communities/regional_advisory_councils/join_a_rac/ • Youth Off the Streets: invitation for YP involved in co-design process in leading, directing and implementing YOTS in Western & South-Western Sydney. Contact SarahD@youthoffthestreets.com.au • Creating Chances pilot project in Wollongong / Central Coast. Contact assmaah@creatingchances.org.au • Pip Collin (Western Sydney Uni): Looking for group to critique the action plans in a living lab. Good for people interested in co-design activities in Western Sydney. Resilient communities are about transformation of conditions. Contact: P.Collin@westernsydney.edu.au • CREATE Foundation on surveys and viewpoints of young people in Out of Home Care www.create.org.au 	

**Attendance
MYAN meeting
17 August 2017
Multicultural NSW**

Ashley	Hulme	ashley.hulme@afp.gov.au	AFP
Aaron	de Silva	aaron.dezilva@afp.gov.au	AFP
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Alex	Barwick	alexander.barwick@mhc.nsw.gov.au	NSW Mental Health Commission
Alex	Long	alex@myansw.org.au	MYAN NSW
Allyson	Pazosq	allyson@mcci.org.au	Multicultural Communities Council of Illawarra
Angus	Megarrity	AMegarrity@georgesriver.nsw.gov.au	Georges River Council
Apajok	Biar	apajok.biar@gmail.com	South Sudan Voices of Salvation/MYAN NSW
Assmaah	Helal	assmaah@creatingchances.org.au	Creating Chances
Atem	Atem	aatem@fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au	Fairfield City Council
Barbara	Rodrigo	barbara.rodrigo@multicultural.nsw.gov.au	Multicultural NSW
Bridey	Martin	bmar1573@uni.sydney.edu.au	Youth Action
Caitie	Read	cread@redcross.org.au	Australian Red Cross
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David	Batchelor	david.batchelor14@gmail.com	Youth action
Diane	Vernon	d.vernon@youthrez.com.au	Youth Resolutions
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Kelly	Tallon	kelly.tallon@acyp.nsw.gov.au	The Office of the Advocate for Children and Young People
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Louise	Kleinbergs	louise.kleinbergs@det.nsw.edu.au	Holroyd High School
Majidi	Warda	majidi.warda@multicultural.nsw.gov.au	Multicultural NSW
Margaret	Piper	margpiper@optusnet.com.au	Consultant
Meredith	O'Neill	meredith.frakes@det.nsw.edu.au	DoE Refugee Student Support Team
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Peter	Hope	phope@fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au	Fairfield City Council
Pip	Collin	P.Collin@westernsydney.edu.au	Western Sydney University
Rhiannon	Dobson	rhiannon.dobson@yepaustralia.com.au	Youth Employment Partnership
Rnita	Dacho	rnita@adsi.org.au	Auburn Diversity Services
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Sean	Kirsten	Sean.kirsten@tafensw.net.au	TAFE
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Tracy	Cui	jcui7455@uni.sydney.edu.au	Youth Action

Multicultural Youth Affairs Network Meeting

Agenda

Date:	Thursday 17 th August 2017
Time:	10am – 1pm
Venue:	Multicultural NSW

10:00 Welcome and Apologies

- Acknowledgement of Country
- Introductions

10:15 Previous Minutes and Business Arising

10:30 Guest Speaker:

- Apajok Biar – Youth Advocate and MYAN youth representative for UNHCR NGO consultations in Geneva
- Q&A

11:00 Panel and Q&A: Youth Advocacy

- Apajok Biar – MYAN Youth Ambassador
- Dr Pip Collin – Western Sydney University
- Atem Atem – Refugee Communities Advocacy Network (RCAN)

NETWORKING BREAK – 12pm

12:15 NSW Settlement Update:

- Latest update on humanitarian arrivals (metro/regional)
- Updates on new Humanitarian Settlement Program (HSP) and Joint Partnership Working Group on Refugee Resettlement

12:30 MYAN NSW Update

- National Multicultural Youth Conference (for workers) – November 23-24, Melbourne

12:45 General Business

13:00 Meeting close

Next meeting – Thursday 16 November (Fairfield)