

Response Summary:
DRAFT Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2019-2022
Secondary Consultations

Summary

The Draft Multicultural Partnerships Plan (MPP) 2019-2022 was released for public exhibition from 8th March to 8th April via the Yarra Council public website “Your say Yarra”, and distributed via email to various networks (Yarra Settlement Forum, Richmond Rising, Yarra Multicultural Advisory Group, Cohealth Community Liaison and Participation Committee), as well as internal Council branches (family and children’s services, aged and disability, youth services, community partnerships).

A Summary version of the Draft was developed specifically for translation, and Arabic, Chinese (Simplified) and Vietnamese translations were sought. The translated documents were provided to ethno-specific groups (eg. Australian Vietnamese Women’s Association, Yarra Chinese Seniors groups), as well as to service providers working with CALD communities (eg. Cohealth, Micare).

The Draft was also brought to a number of groups for more detailed feedback discussions including the Yarra Multicultural Advisory Group, and Carringbush Adult Learning students.

Web-based consultation

The Your Say Yarra page comprised a brief survey, along with the full Draft Multicultural Partnerships Plan, a Summary version of the Draft, and Arabic, Chinese and Vietnamese translations of the Summary version, all available for downloading.

A total of 267 visits, 65 informed visitors and 22 engaged visitors to the page was recorded over this period.

Summary of responses:

1. What do you think of our draft Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2019-2022?
Do you agree with the priorities?
Yes 81% No 9% Unsure 9%

2. Do you agree with these goals?
Yes 86% No 4% Unsure 9%

3. What is your age?
26-35 18% 36-45 31% 46-55 22% 55+ 27%

4. Were you born in a country other than Australia?
Yes 68% No 31%

5. Do you speak a language other than English at home?

Yes 27% No 72%

Summary of issues raised as responses to Your Say Yarra page:

(not direct quotes)

- safety around Victoria street area
- governance support to community groups, community spaces and funding
- advocacy around discrimination and racism
- employment opportunities for CALD and Aboriginal people at Council
- Council facilitation of inter-cultural opportunities / events
- How to achieve goals set out and measure success?
- English language classes
- more opportunities for youth
- initiatives need to be community-led

Direct email responses

A summary of two responses to the Draft Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2019-2022 via email include:

“doing some research into how Yarra CALD residents seek and discover information they need, and how Council can actively advocate to other government departments (eg. Housing) on issues impacting on residents”

Direct quote:

“We noted the strategy mentions highlighting the strengths/benefits of diversity a few times but without specific action areas to address this (strategic goal 1.1). We were wondering how Council currently messages about the benefits of diversity, or what its plans are to do more in respect of this?”

“We also wanted to know how Council measures religious diversity – statistics are presented extensively about country of birth, languages spoken and reference made to religion but without the statistics. It is notable that Council has added this dimension to cultural diversity, in line with best practice in this area. We have developed a diversity measurement tool that dives into different dimensions of diversity with a specific focus on different dimensions of culture.”

“Regarding strategic goal 2, a big part of participation and inclusion is employment. Whilst mentioned in 2.1 there does not appear to be a corresponding action on employment pathways for CRALD residents. This is something our organisation has developed a series

of tools which could be of interest to council, including mutuality standards that help organisations in their strategic planning to better represent communities.

Related to both these points, we would suggest council add further strategic goals relating to employment pathways such as:

- Strategic goal 2.3 Council seeks out opportunities to work together with CRALD communities, other organisations and other sectors to build accessible and sustainable job pathways for people from diverse backgrounds
- Strategic goal 2.4 Council sets targets for employment and staffing based on mutuality with community diversity”

Feedback from discussions

Discussions were held with Carringbush English language students and Cohealth CLAP (Client Liaison Advisory Panel) directly relating to the Draft.

Comments from the CLAP included:

“The committee is happy with the plan and appreciated the closing feedback loop with this consultation”

“The community is changing and evolving with new communities. People need to be respected, and the plan makes this happen”

“Happy with the Plan priorities, however could mention something on physical safety being the biggest issue, around and on the public housing estates, issues of drug and alcohol, less policing, and Yarra council needs to have strategies to deal with those: ie. Increased police presence, etc”

“Safety issue for the elderly on the streets and at home. Strategy could relate to access”

“Newcomers need to feel safe too, both physically and mentally.”

Comments from Carringbush students:

(not direct quotes)

-safety around Victoria st regarding open drug dealing and taking is of great concern;

-very happy and grateful that Yarra Council is supportive of multicultural communities;

Conclusion

The information collected during this second consultation period specifically relating to the draft will be shared with the MPP 2019-2022 Reference Group to discuss how the information will be incorporated.

The final draft will then go to Council for final endorsement in June 2019.