

7.3 MULTICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE – APPOINTMENT OF NEW MEMBERS

Responsible Committee: Multicultural Advisory Committee

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. *Endorses the appointment of the following four community representatives to the Multicultural Advisory Committee, each for a two-year term:*

- *Dakhina Mitra*
- *Oksana King*
- *Rida Khan*
- *Mohamed Mohideen*

2. *Endorses the updated Multicultural Advisory Committee Terms of Reference*

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to recommend the appointment of four new members to the Multicultural Advisory Committee (MAC).

BACKGROUND

The role of the MAC is to act in an advisory capacity to Council on issues relating to the multicultural communities of Monash and to support the implementation of Council's *A Healthy & Resilient Monash: Integrated Plan 2017-2021*.

The MAC comprises of 16 members appointed by Council including three Councillors. The MAC currently has four vacancies.

DISCUSSION

Due to the four vacancies on the MAC, Council invited nominations from people living or working in the City of Monash who:

- Have knowledge and understanding of the needs and issues affecting CALD communities
- An interest and involvement in local and/or broader multicultural community affairs, advocacy and networks
- An interest and understanding of Local Government services and programs from a multicultural community perspective

- The ability to contribute to the strategic development of multicultural policy at local government level
- Direct links to local ethnic community populations and/or organisations
- Experience and/or understanding of the role of an advisory committee

Council received a total of 25 nominations to join the committee. While all nominees demonstrated a commitment and capacity to make a valuable contribution to the Committee, seven nominees who most closely met the criteria were shortlisted and invited to attend a group interview held on Tuesday 9 March. The interview was chaired by Cr Nicky Luo and Councillors Tina Samardzija and Anjalee de Silva were also in attendance.

Following the interview, the following four applicants are recommended for membership of the Committee:

- Dakhina Mitra
- Oksana King
- Rida Khan
- Mohamed Mohideen

All of the recommended applicants meet the membership criteria set out in the MAC Terms of Reference (Attachment 1). They represent cultural backgrounds reflective of the Monash community, offer relevant lived experiences, skills and qualifications that complement those of the existing committee members.

These new members, in addition to the nine current members and the three representative Councillors, will bring this committee to a full membership.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This report is in line with Council's *A Healthy & Resilient Monash: Integrated Plan 2017-2021*

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The contribution that community members make through their participation on the DAC enhances Council's work in the area of access and inclusion for people with disability, their families and carers and ultimately facilitates opportunities for good advocacy, policy development and service provision for their benefit and the community at large.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

This report is in line with the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 and in particular with the following rights:

freedom of expression; and
taking part in public life.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications resulting from this recommendation.

CONCLUSION

This report recommends the appointment of the following four community representatives to the Multicultural Advisory Committee, each for a two-year term:

- Dakhina Mitra
- Oksana King
- Rida Khan
- Mohamed Mohideen

This report also seeks Council's endorsement of the updated Multicultural Advisory Committee Terms of Reference.

ATTACHMENT

Attachment 1: Multicultural Advisory Committee Terms of Reference