**MINUTES**

**GREATER DANDENONG YOUTH NETWORK**

***Young People’s Experiences of Racism and Discrimination***

**Wednesday 25 November 2020**

9.30am – 11.00am

ONLINE MEETING

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| **ITEMS** | **NOTES** |
| **Welcome**  | All welcomed and Traditional Owners acknowledged. |
| **Guest Speaker**Edmee Kenny,*Policy Officer – Centre for Multicultural Youth* | Edmee provide an overview of CMY’s recent research project, *Hidden Cost*.The full report can be accessed at: [www.cmy.net.au/resource/hidden-cost/](http://www.cmy.net.au/resource/hidden-cost/) * The research is based on conversations with CMY staff and stakeholders across Victoria; with a survey of more than 350 young people, and a survey with over 350 responses from young people
* Key themes included:
* High levels of racism and low levels of reporting
* Higher levels of COVID-19 stressors for multicultural young people, young women and first generation compared to peers
* Low levels of support for emotional wellbeing
* Racism:
* 89% of participants reported at least one experience of vicarious racism
* 85% of participants from multicultural backgrounds reported experiencing direct racism
* 93% of participants from multicultural backgrounds reported hypervigilance experiences

*For further information, Edmee can be contacted on* *ekenny@cmy.net.au* *or 9340 3725* |
| **Guest Speaker**Monica Forson,*Senior Adviser Community Engagement, Victorian Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (VEOHRC)* | Monica provided an overview of VEOHRC and the Community Reporting Tool* The Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission’s vision is a community where every person values, understands and respects human rights and equal opportunity.
* Services include:
* A free information and enquiry services on discrimination, victimisation, sexual harassment, racial or religious vilification and human rights in Victoria
* A free, fair and timely dispute resolution services for people who may have experienced discrimination, sexual harassment, vilification or victimisation
* Workplace education programs
* Consultancy services with workplaces to build and embed diversity and inclusion into their culture and strategic goals
* Community Reporting Tool
* The Community Reporting Tool is a standalone widget that can be added directly to other organisations’ websites.
* To make a report, community members enter a simple description of the racism, discrimination or other human rights issues they’ve experienced or witnessed.
* Their report is sent securely and confidentially to the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission.
* Knowing the types of racism and discrimination Victorians are experiencing in the community is vital for the Commission’s work.
* De-identified information from reports is used to advocate for stronger protections of peoples’ rights and to enhance our enquiry and complaint services so they best meet the needs of Victorians.

*For more information please contact VEOHRC on 1300 891 848 or email* *enquiries@veohrc.vic.gov.au**The community reporting tool can be accessed at* [*https://www.humanrights.vic.gov.au/get-help/community-reporting-tool/*](https://www.humanrights.vic.gov.au/get-help/community-reporting-tool/) |
| **Break Out Rooms** | Using breakout rooms, meeting attendees participated in small group discussions around the following two questions:**1. Share an achievement or highlight from your service delivery throughout 2020** **2. What topics would you like to see covered in GDYN meetings or events during 2021?**Following these discussions, the below feedback was provided via the group chat.* Young people in the youth justice system and supporting for further employment.
* What aspects of remote / online work will services/organisations maintain in 2021?
* How students are going re-engaging in education settings in 2021
* More on racism and discrimination
* Youth Accommodation – - Which organisations can provide accommodation, - How we can refer, - What other things do they do, - What programs are available for parents of youth require accommodation,

- What interpreting options services do they have.* Youth Justice System, pre court support and keeping our young people out of the youth justice system.

(General feedback)* “No clear topics but definitely lots of reflection about the good offerings of the variety of speakers and breadth of topics. Good balance of service overviews with presentations.”
* ”We didn't get to discuss the topic ideas, but reflected on the changes of services and priorities for different organisations.”
* “Discussed that there is a gap in services for 12-15-year-old young people. The group identified that there are pervasive issues of school disengagement, increasing rates of younger people offending, and young women affected by bullying. Group 1 would like to hear about information and resources to link 12-15 year olds in social and vocational programs to help prevent school disengagement, social isolation, and intervene with vulnerable young people at this crucial age.”
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| **Information Sharing***All attendees were encouraged to share an update via the meeting ‘chat’ or verbally.*  | **Engy Abdelsalam – Wellsprings for Women**Good morning I am Engy a Community Engagement Worker at Wellsprings for Women. I recently took over the Multicultural Young Women Access to Sports project and it aims at encouraging young women to engage in sports and make it accessible to them. Please contact me on engy@wellspringsforwomen.com if you have any questions. I will also attach the flyer for our first activity running on 1 December at 4 pm in Dandenong Park. Thank you. **Crystal – SMRC**Hi Everyone, I'm Crystal from the Southern Migrant & Refugee Centre (Youth Development Practitioner - School Programs and Youth Career Support). We also offer casework, holiday programs, development programs and homework support programs for newly arrived young people to enhance their wellbeing and settlement journeys. crystaln@smrc.org.au  **Veena - Shakti Australia**We help women and children facing Domestic Violence who are from Asian, African and Middle Eastern background. Crisis line 1800SHAKTI**Molly Johnson, STREAT** Hello all! This is Molly from STREAT - Some information on what we have:* Intro to work: 8 weeks supported work experience (Horticulture or hospitality) that a young person can tap into at any time in one of our wonderful locations.
* Ready to work: 20-week program (3-4 days per week), on the job training (Horticulture or hospitality) at one of our amazing locations
* Paid to work: A program offering Ready to Work graduates, a minimum of six months paid employment with one of our partnered employers!!
* Job Club: Commencing on the 5th of February 2021, Drop-in, provides group and one on one support for young people looking for work in any field, support includes, access to computers, internet, resources, assistance with resumes, job search, and more.
* Parkville: 6 weeks supported work experience for young people currently in Parkville who are being released in the near future.

For any further details please contact gail.burridge@streat.com.au  **Melanie- Family Worker WAYSS** Hi everyone, for any info on supporting young people, 16-25, and their families where the young person is at risk of homelessness please contact Melanie (Youth and Family Worker) from Wayss melaniew@wayss.org.au**Courtney Dunn – Greater Dandenong Youth and Family Services** CGD Youth Services' Summer School Holiday program is back in January providing 2 weeks of free, local and COVID-safe face-to-face activities for YP 12-25 years (pending continued easing of restrictions). Full program will be released shortly. Get in contact with Youth and Family Services on 9793 2155 for more info. **Carla Machado, Refugee Minor Program**Seeking assistance linking young people to employment – if you can help please contact maria.machado@dhhs.vic.gov.au or call 0409 788 502. Working already with Chisholm as well.* *(Suggestion: Employment Empowers @ CMY? A series of online conversations/webinars for young people (every Wednesday) on different topics -* [*www.cmy.net.au/young-people-community/employment/*](http://www.cmy.net.au/young-people-community/employment/)*)*

**Harlin Gandhok, Hampton Park Secondary College**Seeking services to participate in upcoming health and wellbeing days for year 8 & 9 students, on the 7/8/9 December.Also looking for a male Afghan counsellor.If you can assist, contact harlin.gandhok@education.vic.gov.au or call 0477 743 809* *(Suggestions: Komak program at Uniting; or Catholic Care Dandenong (ph: 8710 9600)*

**Mark Dollin, headspace.** Currently ‘business as usual’ with a focus on telehealth. Some capacity for face to face services. Have received a small amount of additional funding for working with year 11 & 12 students – focus on those who were coping well prior to COVID but have been impacted and now would benefit from support. To find out more contact mdollin@each.com.au or 0428 094 016.**Lizzie Mettam, Concern Australia**We have 7 positions we are advertising next week - 6 month roles, that come under the Working for Victoria scheme - 2 x youth engagement resource officers, 2 x multicultural engagement officers, 1 x COVID-safe Frontline Support Worker and an Education Support Worker (IT) - based in Dandenong or Braybrook - Concern Australia - www.concernaustralia.org.au - so check it out if you think you know people who would be interested. **Jenny Crook, Chisholm** Information about Chisholm’s Foundation College can be found online* [Alternative options to high school brochure (pdf)](file:///D%3A%5C2020%20-%20GDYN%5CNovember%20doc%5C%E2%80%A2%09https%3A%5Cwww.chisholm.edu.au%5C-%5Cmedia%5Cfiles%5Cabout%5Cpublications%5Calternative-options-to-high-school.pdf%3Fla%3Den%26hash%3DEEFB8A9A095070B0EC9FD3466523A588A12513A1)
* Certificate 1 Transition Education <https://www.chisholm.edu.au/courses/certificate-i/transition-education>
* Certificate 1 Work Education <https://www.chisholm.edu.au/courses/certificate-i/work-education>
* Certificate 2 Work Education <https://www.chisholm.edu.au/courses/certificate-ii/work-education>

**Reminder to network members: for promotion of programs/services in the monthly eNewsletter please send a short blurb to** **kylie.wilmot@cgd.vic.gov.au**  |
| **Next Meeting** | **Date to be advised – February 2021**For further information please contact Kylie Wilmot, Youth Development and Community Engagement Officer on 9793 2155 or email kylie.wilmot@cgd.vic.gov.au Thank you to all network members for their support throughout 2020, and we look forward to working together again in 2021. |