

CHRISTCHURCH MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL (Inc.)

(a member of the NZ Federation of Multicultural Councils - Multicultural New Zealand Inc.)

Report for 2022-2023

Fostering Social Cohesion and Multiculturalism to enrich New Zealand

22 June 2023

Tēnā koutou katoa!

It gives me great pleasure to present the report on the activities of the Christchurch Multicultural Council (CMC) for 2022-23 at the 34th Annual General Meeting. I would like to sincerely acknowledge the contributions made by the fellow members, the past members, ethnic community groups, and agencies/offices (local and central governments and NGOs) working for the migrants and refugees. I would like to congratulate the CMC for significant contributions made for the culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD), communities in Christchurch and neighbouring Selwyn and Waimakariri Districts, also to the local and central governments, and the ethnic sector in general.



1. Covid-19 Pandemic

- Supported ethnic communities with information updates from various Government offices: Ministry of Ethnic Communities, Immigration NZ, Ministry of Health, Pegasus Health, Ministry of Social Development, NZ Police, Multicultural NZ etc.
- Active participation in several other Zoom meetings with the above for addressing the concerns and needs of ethnic communities and permanent and temporary residents (international students, visitors, workers and their partners).
- Promoted Covid vaccination drives for the first, second and booster vaccinations.
- Promoted multicultural pop-up walk-in Covid vaccination clinics in Christchurch and neighbouring districts.
- Helped distribute face masks and RAT kits generously made available to us from partner agencies.
- Promoted guidelines for the preparation for self-isolation.
- Promoting Covid booster vaccination take up.

2. Supporting Central Government, its Ministries and Offices

- New Zealand Census Day. 7 March 2023. CMC promoted the need and signification of participation.
- MNZ-NZ Police Refreshed MoU. Signing ceremony on 14 May. Wellington. RMCs attended.
- CMC members attended the conference “Theme: Ethnic Advantage” organised by the Ministry of Ethnic Communities on 3 December at Chateau on the Park Hotel, Christchurch.
- Immigration NZ Advisory Group. Matters related to migrants and refugees – Zoom meetings.
- Southern Region Community Leaders Group and United Voice - Zoom Meetings. Immigration issues and small businesses facing rising ram-raids, burglaries and attacks. Supported a rally by local small businesses (dairies and other retail shops) to protest the death of a businessman (Janak Patel) and rising crime.
- Ministry of Ethnic Communities (MEC) Southern Regional Ethnic Leaders Group – Zoom meetings.
- Human Rights Hui Christchurch – NZ’s 4th Universal Periodic Review. Tuesday 4 April. St Albans. Attended by Surinder, Archana, Hero, Farah and Irinka.
- Meeting with Living Wage Aotearoa – Nathaniel Herz-Edinger. 5 April.
- Impact of Ukraine-Russia conflict on their NZ communities – visa issues
- Iran situation related to women oppression and its impact on NZ Iranian community. Visa issues.

- Afghanistan situation – ongoing impact on NZ Afghani communities – travel, visa issues
- MNZ-RMCs online meeting with then Minister Chris Hipkins. 7 December.

3. Supporting Christchurch City Council (CCC) and Selwyn and Waimakariri District Councils

- Since the launch of the Christchurch Multicultural Strategy in May 2017, we have been supporting the CCC for the implementation of the strategy. We regularly present our views to the CCC Multicultural Committee (Chair Cr Jimmy Chen until September 2022). Certificate of Appreciation was received.
- Regular attendance at citizenship ceremonies of CCC and SDC to meet and greet new citizens from diverse communities and to introduce the role of CMC to them.
- CMC actively participated in INFoRM (Inter-Agency Network for Refugees and Migrants) and other community meetings.
- CMC works with CCC to raise awareness of the local body election process for ethnic communities. Our objective is to encourage ethnic communities for civic participation and to have greater representation of them on the Community Boards and the Council.

4. Race Unity Day and Festival of Colours - Holi (4 March)

CMC was pleased to be again associated with Revel Events as a strategic partner and supporter (since 2017) with a view to celebrating Holi, the Festival of Colours with the wider community of diverse cultures to promote kotahitangi (solidarity), harmony, happiness, friendship and equality and respect among diverse cultures. Holi Festival also commemorated the Race Unity Day. We are One.

5. Multicultural Cricket Tournaments

Fostering unity in diversity through Cricket.

A number of sports events were supported to encourage participation of multicultural communities and promote inter-culture friendship. 6th ARA All Nations Multiethnic T20 Cricket Tournament by Christchurch Metro Cricket Association and Christchurch Multicultural Council. Sponsors: Two Fat Indians Restaurant and Christchurch City Council. Sundays 27 November, 4 and 11 December 2022. Hagley Park (Polo Grounds). Heartiest congratulations to: Winner: Afghan XI. Runner up: Cornered Tigers.

I was honoured to have been invited by the organisers of a number of other social cricket tournaments at their prize giving ceremonies. Congratulations to them as well as to the players from diverse groups.

6. Many Voices 2023 – We are One! CMC Multicultural Festival

To mark the MNZ New Zealand-wide Multicultural Day (25 August) to celebrate “We are One - Ko Tatou Tatou” in cultural diversity, we are organising our multicultural festival known as MANY VOICES 2023 to be held on Saturday 26 August 2023 at La Vida Centre. We have invited organisations/groups to participate in this event with the option to perform on the main stage or promote their group through art and crafts displays & demonstrations, or information.



7. 6th CultureFest 2022 – Selwyn Multicultural Festival

Selwyn District Council (SDC), CMC and Lincoln University Student Association (LUSA) helped to bring CultureFest 2022, celebrating Selwyn's growing diversity, at Lincoln Event Centre and Domain on Sunday 11 September. We witnessed record participation and attendance at this ever-popular multicultural festival (40 colourful ethnic performances and a large number of food and information stalls). CMC would like to acknowledge the support and contribution of its members, SDC, Rotary Club of Lincoln, LUSA, and all the participating groups and agencies for a very entertaining and successful CultureFest.

Karakia and Welcome by Selwyn Mayor Hon Sam Broughton.

A Big Thank You to all the participants, volunteers and supporters (SDC, CMC, Lincoln Rotary Club, Lincoln University, LUSA, community groups, agencies and others) for making the event very successful and entertaining. Special thanks to Lincoln Rotary for marshalling the car parking. Many thanks Archana Tandon JP for an excellent

stage management for performances.

Selwyn CultureFest 2023 – Sunday 10 September at Lincoln Domain. Preparations are at an advance stage.

8. 22nd Culture Galore (18 February)

We participated in this annual multicultural festival, organised by the Christchurch City Council, which provides an opportunity for ethnic groups to showcase their culture in the form of performing arts, music, food, crafts, sports and games. CMC is always proud to support, promote and, participate in, this popular event to celebrate cultural diversity. Several of CMC members also participated in this event by way of stage performances and/or food stalls.

Special acknowledgements and congratulations to the Convenor Lisa Gregory and team at CCC and all the participants and supporters for another a very successful Culture Galore every year.

CMC promoted unity in diversity as well as the White Ribbon Campaign for the prevention of domestic violence. We distributed White Ribbons and campaign pamphlets. Thank you all for your support. It was a great day for having lots of fun.

9. CMC Management and Administrative Work

- Various secretarial and financial tasks. New memberships and renewals. Monthly and annual accounts.
- Accountability Reports submitted to funders, Charity Trust, Incorporated Societies.
- Several agencies/groups and individuals were approached for joining CMC.
- Information from CMC and our partners has been regularly disseminated to members of our network.
- CMC Facebook page is regularly updated.
- Development of CMC's independent website (funded by MSD) has been completed. Ready to be launched.
- Development of a shared CMC website with MNZ Digital-hub multi-website project is progressing well.
- Prototype designs of a new banner for CMC have been made for a final selection for printing.
- Letters of support and references were provided to several members for funding, nominations and appointments etc.

10. Supporting Migrants, Ethnic Sector and their Partners

- We worked closely with the Ministry of Ethnic Communities (MEC), Human Rights Commission (HRC), Christchurch City Council (CCC), Selwyn District Council, Waimakariri Migrants & Newcomers Group, ARA, Hagley College, Resettlement Services, MSD, PEETO, Network Waitangi, Pegasus Health, NZ Police, and several ethnic community and faith groups.
- Ethnic Community Groups Hui by Hui E!, Volunteering Canterbury & SEWN (Social Equity & Wellbeing Network)
Hui 1 – 6 May. Defining your support needs.
Hui 2 – 27 May. Strategies for finding and accessing grants.
- Several meetings with MPs, and political parties' ethnic sector representatives to discuss policies and programmes for early settlement, integration of multicultural communities, and impacts of Covid-19.

11. Meetings of NZFMC/Multicultural NZ (MNZ)

CMC was represented at the MNZ meetings and events held during the year:

- Multicultural New Zealand (New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils) "Governance Training and Coaching to govern Diversity" was held at Pavilions Hotel Christchurch on 6 and 7 August 2022. Various South Island Regional Multicultural Councils Executive Members and Organising Committee Members attended the Governance Training. (CMC participants: Hero Modares, Emmie King, Archna Tandon and Farahnaz Khosravi)
- MNZ Executive Council Zoom meetings – monthly.
- MNZ AGM held in Wellington on 24-25 September was attended by Sabidah Abu Bakar, Archna Tandon and Farahnaz Khosravi.
- MNZ Immigration Hui was held on 6-7 May in Auckland to discuss the development of an immigration strategy in preparation for the 200th anniversary of the signing of the *Te Tiriti O Waitangi* in 2040. Attended by Surinder Tandon, Hero Modares and Archna Tandon.

12. Networking and Celebration: Attendance and Participation in Local Multicultural Activities

We continue to attend and support sports and cultural events, local and national governments, NGOs' functions and meetings in Christchurch and neighbouring areas. The number of cultural events continues to grow, which is fostering and celebrating cultural diversity.

- CMC-Riccarton Rotary Multicultural Day at Riccarton Rotary Market. 13 November. Cultural performances.
- CMC End-of-Year social function, Saturday 17 December at Riccarton Community Centre.
- CMC New Year Picnic, Saturday 14 January. Spencerville Park.
- Aliwan Festival by Pinoy CARES. 4 December. Outside Riverside Market.
- Philippines Day 2023. 22 February. Victoria Square.
- Chinese New Year Music Concert. 19 January. Piano.
- Chinese New Year celebrations by NZ Chinese Friendship Society, Canterbury Malaysian Society.
- Chinese Tea Ceremonies and Cultural Programme. Visiting troupe. NZICAEA Christchurch. 12 May. Halswell.
- The First NZ Golden Ribbon Multicultural Youth Music Festival, 11-16 July. Concert-16 July, Town Hall.
- Nowruz. Kia Ora Academy. 25 March. Turanga Library.
- Multicultural Nowruz (Iran, Afghanistan and Kazakhstan). UCISA, CIS, Simurgh Music School, and Afghan and Kazakh Groups. 19 March. Halswell.
- Opening ceremony of 73rd Annual Easter Sport Tournament of NZ Chinese Association. 7 April.
- Canterbury African Communities Inc. Pan-African Music, dance and food. 25 February 2022. Riccarton.
- 2022 Riverside Market Multicultural Day was planned in collaboration with Riverside Market. It was cancelled twice (November and March) due to Covid and other similar events.
- Indian Independence Day, Indian Teez and Baisakhi Festivals, Nepalese Dussehra Festival, Nepal New Year Day, Chinese New Year Events, Thai Food and Cultural Festival, Nowruz (Persian New Year), Riverside Market Cultural Events, The UN International Peace Day

13. Multicultural Women Council (Please refer to separate Women Council Report – Archna Tandon)


- Members supported several social-cultural activities, reported elsewhere, during the year.
- A cross-cultural parenting workshop was organised in association with Shama.
- Let's Talk, Kids. A workshop on prevention of child harm was organised in association with Shama.
- Skills for safety: Several self-defence training sessions were run for ethnic women.

Acknowledgements

To: Members of the CMC for their support, various community groups, Christchurch City Council for their support, representation, participation, communication and promotion/networking; Ngai Tahu, Network Waitangi Otautahi, Plains FM96.9, PEETO, Shakti, Shama, Canterbury Refugee Resource & Service Centre, CRS, Christchurch Community House, Selwyn District Council, Waimakariri Migrants & Newcomers Group, Canterbury Interfaith Society, Pegasus Health, CDHB, INFoRM (Inter-Agencies) Group, Ministry of Ethnic Communities, DIA, MSD, Immigration NZ, Human Rights Commission and Race Relations, Rotary Club of Lincoln, NZ Police, Multicultural Youth Association of Canterbury, White Ribbon, Simurgh Music School, local MPs and Councillors, Revel Events, and Christchurch Metro Cricket Association.

I sincerely thank you all for your support to me and Christchurch Multicultural Council during the year.

Nga mihi nui



Surinder Tandon, MNZM
President,
Christchurch Multicultural Council Inc.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POSITIONS for 2022-2023

President: Surinder Tandon

Vice-President: Hero Modarres

Vice-President: Sabidah Abu Bakar

Secretary: Farahnaz Khosravi

Treasurer: Audrey Davies





