



CHRISTCHURCH MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL (Inc.)

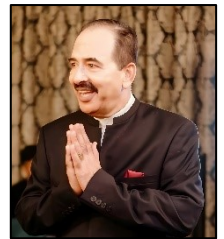
(a member of the NZ Federation of Multicultural Councils - Multicultural New Zealand Inc.)

Report for 2024-2025

Fostering Social Cohesion and Multiculturalism to enrich New Zealand

Tēnā koutou katoa !

I am pleased to present the 2024–25 activity report of the Christchurch Multicultural Council (CMC) at the 36th Annual General Meeting. I warmly acknowledge the efforts of current and former members, ethnic community organisations, and partner agencies and offices, both local and central government, as well as NGOs that support migrants and refugees. I also commend CMC for its significant and meaningful contributions to culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities in Christchurch, and in the neighbouring Selwyn and Waimakariri Districts, along with its valued support to government bodies and the broader ethnic sector.



1. Many Voices 2024 – We are One! CMC Multicultural Festival

To celebrate the Multicultural New Zealand (MNZ) New Zealand-wide Multicultural Day (25 August), we organised a multicultural festival, called MANY VOICES on Saturday 30 November 2024 (postponed from 31 August due to unavoidable reasons) at Multicultural Recreation & Community Centre. Several ethnic groups and organisations participated in this event through music and dance performances, art and crafts displays, and information stands. A large gathering enjoyed the display of cultural diversity.



2. Ethnic Safety by Community Patrol New Zealand: Christchurch Forum

We have been actively collaborating with Community Patrol New Zealand (CPNZ), particularly following the Christchurch mosque attacks and the incidents involving threatening letters sent to Hindu temples. I had the honour of speaking at the Christchurch Ethnic Safety Forum, hosted by CPNZ at Hotel Rydges Latimer on Saturday 5 October. I acknowledged and appreciated CPNZ's ongoing patrol support for cultural and faith-based events and venues across communities. The importance of partnering with CPNZ to ensure safer environments for ethnic communities was highlighted. This partnership enables communities to celebrate their cultures and observe their faiths without fear. Encouragingly, more community members are now expressing interest in joining CPNZ as patrolling volunteers.



**Oct 2024
Christchurch - CPNZ
Ethnic Safety Forum:
Safer Communities
Together**

3. Civil Defence Emergency Preparedness and Management for Ethnic Communities

CMC is actively working with Christchurch City Council (CCC) Community Resilience Coordinators to enhance Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) readiness for multicultural communities. It is essential that

emergency hubs established by Civil Defence and local communities consider cultural and faith-based needs and sensitivities during crises such as earthquakes, floods, or tsunamis. To better understand current preparedness levels and community requirements, CCC is conducting a survey across diverse groups.

4. International Women's Day

International Women's Day was marked with a collaborative event organised by Christchurch Multicultural Council, Canterbury Indian Women Group, Bhartiya Samaj Canterbury, and Shama Ethnic Women's Trust. It took place on Sunday 9 March at Mohoao Hall, Te Hāpua Halswell Centre.

THEME: Accelerate Action – Challenging Stereotypes & Limiting Beliefs

Women from a range of ethnic communities came together for conversations centred around the Parents as Protectors project, particularly exploring cultural dynamics. The event also saw the national launch of our new "Let's Talk" posters, introduced by keynote speaker Christchurch City Councillor Sara Templeton and Community Board Member Marie Pollisco JP. The gathering concluded with shared laughter, insights, and kai.



5. Combined International Day of Mothers, Family and Diversity



ceremony was held to commemorate the occasion.

The CMC Women's Council hosted a multicultural celebration to mark International Mother's, Family, and Diversity Days on Saturday 17 May at Aldersgate Centre, Durham Street.

The event featured a variety of lively music and dance performances representing different cultures, delighting the audience. Children enjoyed various games and arts and crafts activities. A special cake-cutting

6. 8th CultureFest 2024 – Selwyn Multicultural Festival

CultureFest 2024, held on Sunday 15 September at the Lincoln Event Centre and Domain, was organised by joint collaboration between Selwyn District Council (SDC) and Christchurch Multicultural Council (CMC), celebrating Selwyn's vibrant cultural diversity. The event opened with a karakia and welcome by Selwyn Mayor Hon Sam Broughton. This year saw record crowds and participation at the much-loved multicultural festival. Over 20 vibrant cultural performances lit up the stage, complemented by a wide array of food and information stalls. We gratefully acknowledge the contributions of all participants, volunteers, and supporters—SDC, CMC, Lincoln Rotary Club, Lincoln University, LUSA, community groups, agencies, and other for making the event a resounding success. Special appreciation to Lincoln Rotary for managing car parking and to Archana Tandon JP for her outstanding coordination of stage performances and management.

Selwyn 9th CultureFest 2025 – Sunday 14 September at Lincoln Domain. Preparations are at an advance stage.



7. Multicultural Cricket Tournaments

Fostering unity in diversity through Cricket.

A number of sports events were supported to encourage the participation of multicultural communities to foster inter-culture friendship and harmony. 7th All Nations Multiethnic T20 Cricket Tournament was organised by Christchurch Metro Cricket Association (GM: Mike Harvey) and Christchurch Multicultural Council. Supported by Christchurch City Council, MEC and valued business sponsors. Sundays 24 November, 8 and 22 December 2024. 16 teams from diverse groups participated. It was great that the final day games including the final were played at the international Hagley Oval ground. Initial games were played at Hagley Park (Polo Grounds), opposite Deans Avenue. Heartiest congratulations to: Winner - Cricket World Christchurch Runners up –Gujarat Lions.



It was also an honour to have been invited by the organisers of a number of other social cricket tournaments at their prize giving functions. Hearty congratulations to them as well as to the players from diverse groups.

8. Supporting Government, Ministries, Offices and Ethnic Sector

- Active participation in Ministry for Ethnic Communities – Ethnic Leaders Forum: MEC Reset. Christchurch. Friday 19 July.
- 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.
- Working with Christchurch Resettlement Services on Elder Abuse/Empowerment Reference Group/Network.
- Continue to represent multicultural communities on the Living Wage NZ Steering Group campaigning for “living wage”. The importance of living wage, better than the legal minimum wage, for migrants to thrive than just to survive is stressed.
- Several meetings with MPs, and political parties’ ethnic sector representatives to discuss policies and programmes for early settlement and integration of multicultural communities.

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

- 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.

10. CMC Management and Administrative Work

- Various secretarial and financial tasks. New memberships and renewals. Monthly and annual accounts.
- Big thanks to Audrey Davies for fulfilling the Treasurer’s role after Isaiah Loh’s resignation in November.
- Accountability Reports submitted to funders, Charity Trust, Incorporated Societies.
- Submission made to the Government against the Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi Bill.
- CMC Facebook page is regularly updated.
- CMC website. chchmc.org.nz
Members need to register to be able to login to access documents.
- Information from CMC and our partners has been regularly disseminated to members of our network.
- Letters of support and references were provided to several members for funding, nominations and appointments etc.
- Several ethnic sector agencies/groups and individuals were invited for joining CMC.

11. Meetings of NZFMC/Multicultural NZ (MNZ), Ministry for Ethnic Communities

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

- MNZ Executive Council Monthly Meetings – online.
- Multicultural NZ 35th AGM. 21-22 September, Wellington. Attended by Weng Kei Chen and Emmie King.
- NZ Police and MNZ/RMCs Hui on Refreshed Police Ethnic Strategy. Royal Police College, Porirua, Wellington. Saturday 6 July.

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

We remain actively involved in supporting and attending sports and cultural events, as well as functions and meetings hosted by local and central governments and NGOs in Christchurch and surrounding regions. The number of cultural celebrations continues to rise, reflecting the region's growing ethnic population and enhanced appreciation of cultural diversity.

- Unfortunately, 23rd Culture Galore, scheduled for Saturday 8 March at Ray Blank Park, Ilam, had to be cancelled due to the wet weather. We are grateful to all the groups for their preparation for participation.
- I attended the BLIA Buddha Birthday Multicultural Festival celebration and World Peace Prayer at BLIA Buddha Temple on Saturday 12 April. I was invited to say a Hindu prayer. The Temple's work on multiculturalism and social cohesion is very praiseworthy.
- Race Unity Day and Festival of Colours - Holi (26 April)
CMC was pleased to be again associated with Christchurch Holi as a strategic partner and supporter (since 2017) with a view to celebrate 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 (21 March).
- Race Unity Speech Contest. 25 and 26 March. Christchurch Baha'i Centre.
Surinder Tandon and Hero Modares were invited as judges at the North Canterbury speech contests. All the speeches on the race unity and challenges were thoughtful and impressive. Winners from local high schools went to Auckland for the semifinal.
- Attended Nadanu Pa Cultural Evening organised by the NZ Sri Lanka Cultural Foundation. Sat 22 March, Aurora Centre. Presented a CMC Certificate of Appreciation to them for their contribution to the NZ multicultural society.
- Attended Bhutanese Cultural Evening, organised by Bhutanese Society of Canterbury NZ, Sunday 24 November. Riccarton High School.
- Participated in Newcomers Expo organised by Volunteering Canterbury. Saturday 15 February. Multicultural Recreation & Community Centre.
- Attended Tamu Dhee Lhosar New Year Function. Saturday 21 December. Templeton Community Centre.
- Attended Chinese New Year celebrations and Japan Fiesta Day.
- Christchurch and Selwyn Diwali events.
- Several other ethnic cultural events.

13. Multicultural Women Council (Chair - Archana Tandon)

Members supported several activities, also reported above, during the year.

- Organised several events
 - Many Voices Multicultural Festival,
 - International Women's Day,
 - International Mother's Day combined with International Day for Families and Diversity. Nationwide launch of "Child Harm" posters.
 - Selwyn CultureFest, Christchurch Culture Galore
- Contribution to Multicultural NZ Women Council
- Advocacy for domestic violence victims
- Bollywood dance fitness classes in Christchurch and Lincoln.

14. Multicultural NZ Community Service Awards

Multicultural NZ Community Service Awards, named appropriately after the first President (1989) of Christchurch Multicultural Council and NZ Federation of Multicultural Councils (MNZ), Late Professor Kuan Goh, were presented to Nancy Goh, Emmie King and Archana Tandon JP for their significant service to the MNZ and CMC for ethnic communities at our Many Voices Multicultural Festival. Presenters were Christchurch City Councillors Tyla Harrison-Hunt and Mark Peters. Congratulations!!

Prof. Goh worked at Lincoln University. He served on the Multicultural Councils for nearly 25 years. He also served on the NZ Chinese Association at the local and national levels.

Acknowledgements

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

I sincerely thank everyone 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 2024-2025

President: Surinder Tandon

Vice-President: Hero Modarres

Vice-President: Audrey Davies

Secretary: Emmie King

Treasurer: Isaiah Loh

PHOTOS FROM 2024-2025





