

Nelson Multicultural Council Chairperson Report
Annual General Meeting
11th of April, 2018

Kia ora koutou.

As Nelson Multicultural Council Chairperson it is an honour for me to share the present report, that summarises what 2017 has been for our organization. Our work was guided by a strategic plan (2016-2017), defined at the end of 2015, after a round of consultations with members, collaborators and partner organizations, including experts in business and organizational matters.

That plan defined four areas of work: Leadership, Collaboration, Delivery and Capacity building, aimed to guide our efforts towards the achievement of outcomes that were relevant to our organization's mission and vision, compiled in our motto: *Unity Within Diversity*. In that way, we develop programmes, events and other initiatives, sometimes leading them and sometimes collaborating with other agencies and organizations, within each area of our plan's framework.

In the Leadership area, we procured to strengthen our Governance Committee, adding skills brought by new Co-opted Committee members, whose contribution has enhanced the diversity, the capability and the capacity of our committee. Each one of us has contributed to create relationships with agencies and communities, engaging them with our vision and engaging us with common community goals. Nelson Multicultural Council has continued to be a collective voice of migrants and ethnic communities, with the ability to inform other organizations, agencies and workplaces in intercultural awareness matters.

In the Collaboration area, Nelson Multicultural Council has strengthened its participation with other agencies and organizations with whom we share visions and strategies. We have developed several initiatives in partnership with them. We can highlight our involvement with the Nelson Tasman Settlement Forum, whose discussions guided the developing of projects and programmes ideas for the wider community. Other expressions of this collaboration happens at the events we deliver: Race Unity day, with Nelson City Council (Nelson Regional Development Agency) and community groups; Tasman Asian Night Food Fair, with Tasman District Council and local organizations and Colour Craze, with Tasman Youth Council. A Women's Hui, was organized in partnership with the Nelson Angel Women Loan Fund. Its success was reflected in that the women organizations present decided to continue meeting once a year to catch up about what our organizations are doing *for* women's wellbeing and empowerment. Finally, the Nelson Tasman Advisory Group, got local agencies and organizations together to collaborate with our research: Meeting the Needs and Challenges of Migrants and Former Refugees in the Nelson Tasman region, developed in partnership with the Centre for Applied Cross Cultural Research of Victoria University.

Our 2016-2017 plan stated the goal of identifying and deliver services that will support migrants and ethnic communities towards their settlement, integration, safety, well-being, mutual understanding and harmonious relations. This past year, our focus was on defining what works, how we should develop existing services further and what new services we could deliver. To achieve that, we decided firstly to strengthen existing services and broaden their reach. In that way, we engaged experienced professionals who delivered very successful Intercultural Awareness

Workshops and have continued developing our interpreters list as well as delivering the events already mentioned.

Linked with our building capacity goal, we successfully completed the *Meeting the Needs and challenges of Migrants and former Refugees in the Nelson Tasman Region*, which has given us a map of what will be our strategy for the next five years at least. Also, in tune with our collaboration goal, we will be making this research publicly accessible online, so people, agencies and organizations can have full access to the valuable information contained there about the situation of the migrant and ethnic communities of the region, so it can inform not only ours but anyone else's decisions on the matter.

This research marks an end to the stage we initiated as an organization with the strategy process at the end of 2015, and opens a new challenge for the years to come. We now have to develop our strategic planing, following the wisdom of the communities we serve, that are compiled in the findings of the research. This will be a process where we hope all of our members will feel motivated to engage with us and we welcome any suggestions and feedback. You will soon have the complete report available to you to read. From now, we can advance that our plan for the future should consider the thematic areas defined in the report: Communication, Culture and Identity, Inclusion and Connectedness, Systems and Services, Economic and Employment and Health and Wellbeing.

The research also revealed that the vast majority of the participants want to be educated and engaged about the Treaty of Waitangi and that we contribute to develop stronger and better relations with Tangata Whenua. That we take as a mandate and we will engage in a dialogue with local Iwi to develop ways for us, migrants and ethnic communities, to understand and be part of New Zealand's bi-cultural society.

To our funders: Ministry of Internal Affairs, Lotteries, Lion Foundation, Rata Foundation, Tindal Foundation, Mainland Foundation, Nelson City Council, Tasman City Council, Tasman Youth Council, all of our thanks and appreciation. We would not be able to develop our work without your support.

A special thanks to the agencies and organizations that worked in partnership with us to deliver programmes and events. It has been an enriching experience to work side by side with you towards the wellbeing of the communities we serve, within an inclusive and nurturing environment.

Thanks to our collaborators and contractors: Brigid Ryan, who was our local Research Liaison for the needs assessment research, organized the workshops and liaised with Victoria University research Director and facilitators. Brigid also led the Ageing in Nelson Research on our behalf. To Denise Hartley-Wilkins and Bridget Thompson, for their delivery of the much popular and necessary Intercultural Awareness Workshops and presentations.

Finally, thanks to our Coordinator, Jenni Bancroft for her brilliant, generous and committed work. Our organization is very grateful for the way you put together our events and programmes liaised and engaged with so many people, founders and agencies on our behalf. We are really proud to have you with us.

In November this year, our organization will be 25 years old. We hope that this will be not only a calendar milestone, but an occasion that gives us the opportunity to reflect on our mission, and how to continue to make a solid contribution to a better life for all.

And to all of our members and volunteers who have engaged with us in our work and made it always better. We hope to continue with your support and that many others will follow to join minds and efforts with us to keep creating a society built on Unity within Diversity.

Many thanks.

Luz Zúñiga
Chairperson
Nelson Multicultural Council.