

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS FROM THE 2013-16 FRAMEWORK

The Human Rights and Social Justice Framework 2013-2016 was adopted by Council in October 2012. The framework established a basis for Council's commitment and actions to protect human rights and promote social justice in the City of Maribyrnong community.

The framework contained a series of actions that focussed on the themes of Compliance, Culture and Advocacy. These actions included complying with the *Charter of Human rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* and advocating for the Victorian Government to strengthen the Charter.

A key action under the culture theme in the framework was the formation of the Human Rights and Social Justice Steering Group. This group is chaired by the Chief Executive and made up of members of staff from across Council Divisions.

The purpose of the Steering Group was to support the implementation of the actions contained in the framework. The Steering Group also supported activities that promoted understanding of human rights and social justice in Council and the City of Maribyrnong community. Activities that the Steering Group have supported include:

- **Victorian Charter for Human Rights Training** – The Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission (VEOHRC) run training workshops for local government and other organisations that provide an overview of the 20 rights contained in the *Charter for Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* and how they relate to the role of local government as a public authority. The training also focuses on case studies relevant to each team that will allow participants to identify how the rights contained in the Charter apply to their work. Five training workshops were held for Steering Group members and Council staff in the last three years.
- **Submission to VEOHRC Local Government Survey on the Operation of the Charter of Human Rights** – Council has completed an annual local government survey into how the sector supports the operation of the Charter. A report is then published by VEOHRC on operation of the Charter. Council has received recognition in the reports for the work of the Human Rights and Social Justice Steering Group in promoting understanding of the Charter.
- **Submission to the 2015 Review of the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006** - In May 2015, Council made a submission to the review of the Charter. In its submission, Council called for an expansion of the rights contained in the Charter to include key areas such as gender and sexuality, disability, age, self determination and Indigenous Recognition. Council also called for VEOHRC to promote Local Government case studies of the Charter to raise awareness and increase Council officer expertise in this area.
- **HRAFF Goes West** – The Human Rights Arts and Film Festival (HRAFF) is a not for profit arts organisation that focuses on raising awareness of human rights and social justice issues through its annual festival and its Schools and Communities Program. In 2016, HRAFF for the first time held the HRAFF Goes West event at the Footscray Community Arts Centre on 14 May. In

2017, the HRAFF Goes West Program will be supported by a Festival City Grant.

- **16 Days of Activism** – The 16 Days of Activism is a global campaign to raise awareness about violence against women. The 16 Days of Activism commences on 25 November, which is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and White Ribbon Day. In 2016, Council celebrated this annual campaign with a range of free community events that engaged the community with human rights and social justice issues. Some of the key events held as part of Council commitment to the 16 Days of Activism include:
 - ***Dangerous Deeds Exhibition*** - This accessible arts installation presented a snapshot of the Victorian disability movement and highlighted issues surrounding women with disabilities and domestic violence.
 - ***Maribyrnong Inclusive Recognition Awards (MIRA)*** – This is a celebration of individuals, clubs, businesses and organisations that have contributed to improving the quality of life of people with disability in the City of Maribyrnong.
 - **HRAFF film *Driving With Selvi* screening** - This film shown at the Sun Theatre in Yarraville on December 1 2016, is about the empowering human story of a young woman who escapes her abusive forced marriage and becomes South India's first female taxi driver. The film was followed by a panel discussion moderated by Matilda McKenna from HRAFF. The panel discussion participants included: Holly Crocket from Plan International, Tasneem Chorpa from Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights, and Wendy Forrest from MacAuley Community Services for Women.
- **Journeys of Change Refugee Week Panel Discussion** - This panel discussion was held at MetroWest in June 2015 as part of Refugee Week. The focus of the panel discussion was on the lived experiences of former asylum seekers and what the City of Maribyrnong community can do to support and empower asylum seeker communities. The Panel Discussion was chaired by CEO Stephen Wall and opened by the then Mayor Cr Nam Quach. The panellists for the discussion included:
 - ***Kon Karapanagiotidis OAM*** - Chair and Founder of the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC).
 - ***Zakair Baig*** – Recipient of Office of Human Rights Commission Scholarship to study minority's rights at the UN in Geneva, owner and builder and former asylum seeker.
 - ***Baqir Khan*** – Member Volunteer Coordinator at ASRC Innovation Hub and Adjunct Lecturer Language Management in International Organisations RMT, and former asylum seeker.
 - ***Isabel FitzGerald*** - Creative Producer with the Footscray Community Arts Centre