

# **Ethnic Communities Listening Forum 2006**

Reception Lounge  
Hamilton City Council  
Thursday 22 June 2006  
7:00pm – 9:00pm

## **REPORT**

**Philip Yeung**  
Ethnic Development Advisor  
Hamilton City Council  
07 838 6765  
[philip.yeung@hcc.govt.nz](mailto:philip.yeung@hcc.govt.nz)

11 July 2006

## INTRODUCTION

In March 2004 the Minister of Ethnic Affairs, Hon Chris Carter organised a very successful Listening Forum with Hamilton ethnic communities.

In light of this success, Hamilton City Council hosted the first Ethnic Communities Listening Forum on 15 June 2005 to open up a dialogue between ethnic communities and Council.

The second Ethnic Communities Listening Forum was held on Thursday 22 June 2006 at the Reception Lounge, Hamilton City Council. Participants were divided into five focus groups:

1. Social & Cultural Connectedness
2. Health & Well-being
3. Education, Language & Literacy
4. Employment & Financial Independence
5. General

The facilitators and scribes were:

- Lucia Reijgersberg, Settlement Support Coordinator, Settlement Support New Zealand, Department of Labour
- Kodi Hapi, Policy Analyst, Te Runanga O Kirikiriroa
- Jo Cottrell, District Health Promoter, Population Health Service, Waikato District Health Board
- Elsie Ho, Senior Research Fellow, Migration Research Group, University of Waikato
- Abdirizak Abdi, National Migrant & Refugee Education Coordinator, Ministry of Education
- Jo de Lisle, ESOL Advisor, ESOL Assessment & Access Specialist Service
- Ivan Hodgetts, Career Consultant, Career Services
- Leah MacDonald, Service Manager, Work and Income
- David Vincent, Manager, Hamilton Multicultural Services Trust
- Wen Li, Community Worker, Problem Gambling Foundation



## **Ethnic Communities Listening Forum**

*Hamilton City Council, Reception Lounge,  
Ground Floor, Garden Place*

*7:00pm – Thursday, 22 June 2006*

### **Programme**

- 7:00 pm Philip Yeung, Ethnic Development Advisor (welcome and house keeping), introduces His Worship the Mayor, Michael Redman and Councillors
- 7:05 pm Report back to ethnic communities, Philip Yeung
- What has been achieved in the past year
  - Current projects
- 7:20 pm Forum commences (break into five groups)
- Social & Cultural Connectedness
  - Health & Well Being
  - Education, Language & Literacy
  - Employment & Financial Independence
  - General
- 8:15 pm Coffee, tea and refreshments
- 8:30 pm Indigo Festival 2007, Tracey Wood, Indigo Trust
- 8:40 pm Open discussion
- 9:00 pm Closing



## ATTENDANCE

Around 75 people attended the Forum, from 37 different ethnic groups, organisations and individuals:

1. BAHA'I Faith – Hamilton
2. Chinese Sunshine Society of New Zealand Inc.
3. Christian Life (Korean newspaper)
4. Congolese Community of Waikato Inc.
5. Congolese Union of New Zealand Inc.
6. Hamilton's Fraser High School – Migrant Work Placement Programme
7. Hamilton Kerala Samajam Inc.
8. Hamilton Malayalee Association Inc.
9. Indigo Trust
10. Indonesian Society of Hamilton
11. Islamic Women's Council of New Zealand
12. Italian Community
13. Kiwi Ora
14. Lankakali A Halaevalu Mohefo Tongan Society
15. Member of Parliament Martin Gallagher's office
16. New Zealand Netherlands Society Waikato (Inc.)
17. New Zealand Russian (Waikato) Friendship
18. Pacific People's Addition Services Inc.
19. Pakiwi (Pakistani-Kiwi) Friendship Association of New Zealand Inc.
20. Punjabi Infusion
21. South African Immigration Community Trust
22. Te Runanga O Kirikiriroa
23. The Brazilian Group
24. The Hamilton Cook Islands Association Inc.
25. The New Zealand Chinese Association – Waikato Branch Inc.
26. The United Nations Association of New Zealand (Waikato Branch)
27. Trust Waikato
28. University of Waikato
29. Waikato Chinese Students and Scholars Association
30. Waikato Filipino Association Inc.
31. Waikato Goethe Society (German)
32. Waikato Indian Association (Inc.)
33. Waikato Khmer Association Inc.
34. Waikato Korean Society
35. Waikato Migrant Resource Centre
36. Waikato Somali Friendship Society Inc.
37. Waikato Weekly (Chinese newspaper)

His Worship the Mayor Michael Redman, Deputy Mayor and Councillor Bob Simcock, Councillor Daphne Bell, Councillor Gordon Chesterman, Councillor John Gower, Councillor Peter Bos, Councillor Pippa Mahood and Member of Parliament David Bennett also attended the meeting.

## REPORT BACK TO ETHNIC COMMUNITIES

### What has been an achieved, current and on-going project?

1. The report of Ethnic Communities Listening Forum 2005 can be viewed online:  
<http://www.myhamilton.org.nz/index.asp?pageID=2145832757>
2. Hamilton City Council (HCC) launched a newly developed website with specific web pages on ethnic communities, includes the Hamilton Directory for New Settlers, Hamilton Based International Groups and links to other ethnic groups and agencies websites:  
[http://hamilton.co.nz/page/pageid/2145827047/Ethnic\\_Communities](http://hamilton.co.nz/page/pageid/2145827047/Ethnic_Communities)
3. HCC signed a contract with Hamilton Interpreting Service to provide interpreters when needed.
4. HCC signed a Service Level Agreement with Waikato Migrant Resource Centre as one of the eight citywide community centres/houses, which receive operational support.
5. Environmental Health Unit of HCC organised five 'Chinese Basic Food Safety Courses' in Mandarin to takeaway shops. There are over 80 takeaway shops in Hamilton and approx. 80% of them run by Chinese.
6. 25 ethnic groups applied for a HCC Community Well-being Grant in 2006 compared with 23 in 2005.
7. HCC supports the establishment of the role of Settlement Support Coordinator in Hamilton as part of the Settlement Support NZ, Department of Labour (Settlement network group -'Hamilton New Settlers Focus Group' and Settlement Network Support Group).
8. HCC supported programmes
  - Hamilton's Fraser High School Migrant Work Placement Programme (72% got work & 20% for further study, out of 69 students in 2005)
  - Relating Well in New Zealand Orientation Programme by Relationship Services
  - Kiwi Ora Migrant Orientation (distance learning) Programme
  - ESOL Home Tutor Waikato
  - Refugee Holiday Programme with RMS Resettlement Service
9. HCC supported events
  - New Zealand Ethnic Soccer Festival Hamilton
  - United Nations Youth Human Rights debate
  - Interfaith evening
  - Race Relations Day
  - Hamilton Mosque Open Day

- His Worship the Mayor and Councillors attended numbers of ethnic functions organised by ethnic groups
10. Cultural events were organised at Waikato Museum of Arts and History (HCC) with ethnic communities (Indian Cultural Day, Chinese Cultural Day, Being Irish, Korean Cultural Day, Pasifika Festival and Somali Cultural Day - Rare View-Photos Exhibition of Somali community in Hamilton). Mexican Cultural Day is coming up soon. Further information will be sent to ethnic communities.
  11. Event Sponsorship Committee, HCC sponsored events e.g. NZ Ethnic Soccer Festival, Indigo Festival, Christmas Parade, Hamilton Gardens Summer Festival, Chinese Film Festival, Waitangi Day Celebration and etc.
  12. Hamilton libraries (HCC) – The non-English languages collection currently stands at approx. 3026 books for adult and 303 books for children. Feedback on needs and priorities for adult and children books and materials would be welcome. Please contact Jeff Downs, Collection Leader, Hamilton City Libraries 07 838 6857 or [jeff.downs@hcc.govt.nz](mailto:jeff.downs@hcc.govt.nz) for details. A newly developed information web pages in Chinese Traditional language is up and running. [www.hamiltonlibraries.co.nz](http://www.hamiltonlibraries.co.nz)
  13. HCC worked closely with Statistic NZ and Hamilton Interpreting Service on Census 2006 (workshops and languages sessions)
  14. Celebrating Age Centre (HCC facility) organised an Ethnic Festival in August 05 (Chinese, Indian and Pacific Islands) and the Warm up, Walk and Wade for senior citizens in March 06 (over 50 ethnic elderly participated).
  15. Number of older people with ethnic background accessing HCC housing (451 units in total) has increased (seven units before June 2004, four units between July 2004-June 2005 and four units between July 2005-now, two on waiting list).
  16. HCC organises a bi-monthly 'Hamilton Ethnic Forum' to provide a venue for ethnic communities to mix and mingle, share experiences, raise issues and concerns at the Waikato Migrant Resource Centre.
  17. 'Media and Ethnic News' at Hamilton Community Forum with Office of Ethnic Affairs in April 2006 was a great success. A more in depth workshop will be organised in the near future.
  18. HCC organises two formal 'Welcome New Migrants Ceremonies (new refugee in-take)' per year by His Worship the Mayor.
  19. Four Citizenship Ceremonies were held last year at Founders Theatre with approx. 800 new citizens (in total).

20. HCC publishes the annual 'Hamilton Directory for New Settlers' to provide information to new settlers.
21. HCC promotes free English classes (Wintec, WIE, ATC, Relax and etc.), information related to settlement issues, cultural events, functions and activities by individual ethnic group with Philip's e-mail network of over 450 contacts and regular letters of 'Events and Information updates' to ethnic groups.
22. Rt. Hon Prime Minister Helen Clark officially opened the Indian Char Bagh Garden at Hamilton Gardens in early 2005.
23. Funding workshop for ethnic communities (various funders and HCC) is organised annually.
24. HCC participated in the International Students Orientation Day at University of Waikato and Waikato Institute of Technology with display booth.
25. Gallagher Aquatic Centre, HCC organised two 'Women Only Night' (11 & 25 June 2006) to encourage ethnic women to swim.
26. HCC supports and organises the Cultural Connection workshop on 22 July 2006 (University of Waikato, Ministry of Education) targeting schoolteachers on cultural awareness.
27. HCC is working on 'Welcome Pack' for all new migrants together with Settlement Support Coordinator and Hamilton Citizens Advice Bureau.
28. A list of 'Resources and Web Pages in Various Languages' is to be compiled with Settlement Support Coordinator and Waikato Migrant Resource Centre.
29. A new Waikato InterAgency Refugee and Migrant Forum lead by Ministry of Social Development is now active.
30. HCC Employment Development Team runs the Task Force Green programme with Work and Income; two Somali are currently doing the programme.
31. HCC and Hamilton Multicultural Services Trust are working on the 5<sup>th</sup> New Zealand Ethnic Soccer Festival Hamilton 2006 – early December.
32. Indigo Trust is working on Indigo Festival 2007 – mid-March.
33. HCC is the organiser for the National Community Development Conference 2007 in Hamilton – mid-September (Building Bridges to Well-being).

34. HCC involved in the Land Transport New Zealand National Conference 2006 – mid-August (workshop on dealing with different cultures – cultural resources).
35. HCC is assisting the University of Waikato research project on 'Improving Access to Health Services for Older Asian'.
36. HCC is investigating the possibility of holding welcome ceremonies to new migrants (not refugees).
37. HCC involved in establishing the 'Ethnic Youth Leadership Programme' and promotes 'The Young New Zealanders' Challenge – The Duke of Edinburgh's Award in New Zealand' for migrant and refugee youth in Hamilton.
38. HCC is promoting the 'Migrant Expo Waikato' on 2 September 2006 at Tainui Novotel Hamilton.
39. HCC involved in the Migrant Arts Project (MAP) with Arts Waikato and Waikato Migrant Resource Centre.

**His Worship the Mayor, Michael Redman and Councillors would like to acknowledge the contributions made by the ethnic communities on cultural events, festivals, functions and educational programmes that make Hamilton a colourful and vibrant city to live in.**

### **Hamilton City Libraries World Languages collection as at June 2006**

The non-English language collection currently stands at approx 2976 books for adults and 303 for children. Figures for June 2005 are not readily available but many under-used, old and worn out books have been cancelled.

Priorities for 05/06 have been Dutch, Italian, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Thai and Vietnamese. Many donations, particularly Chinese and Korean have been received (but not counted separately in the table). New Hindi (15) and Arabic (18) material was purchased in 04/05. Tentative priorities for 06/07 are Somali, Sri Lankan, Afrikaans, Japanese, German, French, Cambodian, Korean and Chinese – comments welcome.

Hamilton City Libraries received a list of Urdu suggestions and would like some feedback on potential demand for this language.

The adult collection has been relocated from the Core Stock floor to a more prominent position on Level 2 near the lift at Hamilton City Central Library.

Hamilton City Libraries subscribe to the Hindi language magazine Sarita (copies at Central Level 1 and Chartwell libraries) and the Chinese magazines Du Zhe and Xin Hua Wen Zhai (copies at Central, Hillcrest and Chartwell libraries)

Feedback on needs and priorities for children's material would be welcome.

**Table: World Languages as at 2 June 2006**

Dewey	Language	Adult	%	Purchases 2005/06	Children
830	German	38	1.3		0
839.31	Dutch	56	1.9	13	0
839.36	Afrikaans	64	2.2		23
839.8226	Norwegian	4	0.1		0
843	French	23	0.8		18
850	Italian	42	1.4	19	1
863	Spanish	34	1.1	19	4
869.3	Portuguese	0	0.0		8
891.43	Hindi	72	2.4		0
891.48	Sinhalese	81	2.7		0
891.6	Gaelic	2	0.1		0
891.663	Welsh	2	0.1		0
891.73	Russian	26	0.9		0
892.73	Arabic	21	0.7		0
893.54	Somali	25	0.8		24
894.511	Hungarian	2	0.1		0
894.811	Tamil	22	0.7		0
895.152	Chinese	1227	41.2	26 plus 50 on order	48
895.6	Japanese	343	11.5		9
895.7	Korean	768	25.8	23	168
895.913	Thai	27	0.9	20	0
895.9223	Vietnamese	30	1.0	23	0
895.96	Cambodian	67	2.3		0
		<b>2976</b>	100.0	143 plus 50 on order	<b>303</b>

Jeff Downs  
 Collections Leader  
 Hamilton City Libraries  
 07 838 6857  
[jeff.downs@hcc.govt.nz](mailto:jeff.downs@hcc.govt.nz)

6 June 2006

## **Ethnic Communities Listening Forum Notes - 22 June 2006**

### **GENERAL**

- Settlement Support for UK Migrants and for other English, European speaking migrants.
- What does "Migrant" mean?
- Waikato focus more useful than just Hamilton.
- Employment help (e.g. HCC Gardens) with people who are having difficulty with the immigration process especially the Pacific Island communities.
- More translated documents in relevant languages, re: Referendum Information.
- Employment – Local web resources?
- International / other language Library book resources, can they be updated?
- HCC 0800 number to receive information about HCC property/responsibilities – free mobile access.
- Ethnic retirement home (Dutch) in Flagstaff. Positive Development.
- Overseas investment blocking/reflecting real estate market. (Migrant desire to buy homes). Land availability also reflects house price.
- Media – Further work needed for positive reflection of Ethnic minorities. Having a chance to speak back, multiple voices. Working through journalism education providers. More media training for Ethnic people.

### **HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**

#### **Issues of concern**

- Older people.
- Women's health.
- Babies and young children.
- Youth – Migrant – Depression/suicide.
- International students – access health resources.

#### **Older people**

- Language barrier.
- How to maximise use of Celebrating Age Centre.
- Dance activities/physical activities.
- Information sharing / suggestions:
  - Celebrating Age Centre – meeting time – link migrant groups with the Centre – useful to respond to isolation.
  - City Council mini van (2) – for free – pays patrol.
  - Seats 11 people including driver.

- Booking available – contact through Waterworld – need to register – please plan ahead.
- Used by Chinese Association for trip out of Hamilton.

### **Migrant mothers**

- Concern about use of Formula – need more information.
- Knowledge and information of options.
- Health education – knowledge of breast feeding – cultural norms.
- Availability of services/support/knowledge.
- Information to migrant mothers re – assistance and ideas available for parents.
- Services available for children e.g. Plunket.
- Information in different languages.
- Use of interpreting services.
- Information sharing / suggestions:
  - Roles of birthing centres / hospital.
  - Other services e.g. Mothercraft Units, Parent's Centre etc.
  - Services available for the newly pregnant – GP centres etc.

### **Women**

- Variety of facilities and information available re: Breast Screening etc – Cervical Smear etc.
- Workshop in SHAMA Ethnic Women Centre - helpful.
- Continue to support men to promote women's health.

### **Youth**

- Tensions of living in a new country.
- Difficulties of new country, culture, language.
- New friends/"fitting in"/relationships.
- Isolation, alienation, limited connectedness.
- Loneliness often an issue – depression.
- Difficult to talk to parents.
- Clash of cultures – traditional/own origins and new country.
- Tensions also include dress/activities/expectations.
- Identify issues/challenges.
- Information sharing / suggestions:
  - Information available in the community? Some in schools/liaison person.
  - Provide information to migrant students.
  - Existing youth services and providers.
  - Promote availability to ethnic communities and youth
  - Promote availability to migrant students.
  - Pamphlets including mental health.
  - Information for parents – identify signs of well-being or ill health.
  - Draw migrant youth into their own culture groups – how to move into other cultures?
  - Forum / conference for ethnic youth – find out what they need – hear ideas of young people.

- Link ideas of adults and young people – focus on young people.
- Education in schools (and other places) keeps healthy, law, health, etc.

### **Information to migrants / Welcome Pack**

- Promote existing facilities available – e.g. in Welcome Pack.
- Variety of facilities – need to be collected together – hard to access information fragmented.
- List key people to contact – directory – keep up to date.
- Information needed in own language – available in variety of languages.
- Who available to explain?
- Support people to ask, to move out into community.

### **Waikato Migrant Resource Centre**

- Publicise Migrant Resource Centre as a central contact for information.
- Promote more to new migrants.
- More availability of interpreters.

### **More suggestions**

- Need to ensure availability and use of interpreters about health issues especially in hospital and govt agencies – promote and support availability.
- Support of training of interpreters.
- Develop ethnic – friendly services
- Avoid multiplicity of services all competing for same funding (not sustainable).
- Check that services are ethnic friendly, how effective are they?
- Need information on how to first contact health services – how to get there?
- Support each group to identify needs and what actions.
- Directory – cooking of foods – differences – what to change e.g. sugar use/use of oil etc.
- Support each group to identify needs and what actions.
- More exercise and physical activity.

## **EDUCATION, LANGUAGE & LITERACY**

- Citizenship, families get citizenship but Mums get left out because of low English.
- Females often lacking opportunities to learn.
- Encourage husbands to help wives.
- Classes with crèche facilities.
- Often females start with less English/less education.
- To study most courses people must change benefit from Work and Income to Study Link so sometimes people can lose money when they want to study English
- Positive response to ESOL Advisor Service.

- People on work permits have very limited rights to study to improve their English.
- Promotion of second language learning benefits of having two languages, sharing cultures.
- Very good opportunities for learning languages and literacy in New Zealand, How to source correct courses is a difficulty, is it common knowledge?
- People don't always know what is available.
- Education providers don't know where migrants are.
- English speaking migrants are missing out. A welcome for new migrants would be a good idea.
- Employers' network would be a good idea.
- English speaking migrants still need support. Hard for members of the family, ideas could be in the welcome pack.
- Children's education is great in NZ.
- Secondary school children face a challenge especially if they have English as a second language.
- Children who go to high school with no previous education struggle.
- Schools have ESOL and homework centres but not enough?
- More Indigo Festivals, support Indigo more, great opportunity to learn about other cultures.
- High schools have academic pathway but don't link into employment.
- Fraser and Fairfield have "Gateway" programme other schools don't have yet. Provides opportunities where an academic pathway is not an option.
- Gateway helps kids get into employment. Need more.
- How many migrants/refugees get jobs from Gateway? No refugees in Fraser Gateway, why? Not for those with no education.
- Not enough help to meet the needs of refugee students.
- Doesn't matter how much money is available doesn't make up for a childhood without education.
- Youth are confused and frustrated.
- Not enough basic training is available.
- Very hard for everyone to gain work because the population is too small, lack of trades training.
- Sad that young refugees/migrants are on the dole.
- Employers need to take risks and think outside the square.
- Don't need perfect Queen's English.

### **SOCIAL & CULTURAL CONNECTEDNESS**

#### Positive Feedback

- Participants identified that it was easy to gain access to communities through the large cultural links in Hamilton.

- A participant identified that it was easier to settle when they had employment before arriving in Hamilton.

#### Issues & Solutions

- A participant discussed that generally kiwis are easy going, but there is a need for icebreakers and opportunities to interact with kiwis.  
*It was then suggested that information about local clubs, sports clubs and groups with a list of tools & strategies be made available, to support new migrants access kiwi communities and build relationships with Kiwis. There was also discussion around doing things with Kiwis like sports or other activities being a natural way to interact. It was also suggested that Migrant Communities extend invitations to Kiwi groups.*
- A participant discussed her experience with Immigration: She had been misinformed about the process of gaining citizenship. Following on from this, Immigration questioned the validity of her marriage, because her husband had returned to their country of origin – this highlighted that there were two issues – Communication between both parties and Immigrations lack of understanding about the Indian Culture.  
*It was suggested by another participant to keep records of letters, correspondence and phone records to show that her marriage was very much alive, and thereby support her case, which could then open up an opportunity to explain the cultural values around why her husband returned to India.*
- Another participant discussed that there was an expectation from New Zealanders for new migrants to express their culture in tokenistic ways, for example song, dance, food and costumes.  
*He then went on to say that there was a need for meaningful expressions of cultures in professional, political, social and educational areas, which could create a positive perception of new migrants and benefits of migrants settling in Hamilton. There was also discussion around creating forums to share experiences and expertise as a way of meaningful cultural expression.*
- A participant identified that the intricacies of kiwi culture are difficult to understand.  
*He went on to say that there is a need for information around etiquette and socializing norms for new migrants wanting to make friends with kiwis.*
- It was also identified that there is a difference between 'kiwi' and 'Maori culture', but there was no more discussion around this issue.
- A participant discussed an experience where a policy change at his work place (Waikato University) meant there would be less opportunity to experience multi-cultures for staff and students.  
*He then went on to say that policy writers and decision makers need to be encouraged to promote multi-cultures through positive experiences of other cultures.*
- A participant discussed the lack of financial support for ethnic community newspapers and challenged Council to be more supportive.

*It was suggested that the newspaper make use of the local & central agencies that support groups to access funding that is available for ethnic groups. There was also the suggestion of targeting the tourist market to sell publications and thereby be self-sufficient; this could also attract sponsorship from overseas.*

## **EMPLOYMENT & FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE**

- Discrimination with employers, Office of Ethnic Affairs (video's).
- Chamber of Commerce, Employing Migrants and Refugee's.
- Pak 'n' Save opportunity to speak own languages.
- Introducing new migrants to employers – migrant expo.
- Finding out about employer expectations, understanding what employer's want/looking for.
- Partners who are not in Labour Market, (not clients of Work and Income) and cannot find work.
- Kiwi Host programme interaction with ESOL, ability to speak English verses English language courses (everyday situations and dealing with these).
- Internships for skilled migrants/refugees, while leaning to speak English.
- Workplace bullying, support systems in place to assist.
- Workplace respect, treated differently, tone, speech, approach, reference to other countries when negative situations re, "Asian Flu".
- Acknowledgement of community work/tensions while supporting self and family/looking for work, developing skills.
- Affirmative recruiting with government agencies i.e., MSD, providing jobs for people to learn skills.
- Recognition of skills by employers, capability of people first.
- Employers looking at ways of improving low level of skill in workplace, programmes at lunchtimes etc.

**Please note that the following information regarding the Indigo Festival has been changed. Please contact Debbie Stevens, Event Organiser on 021 716 470 for updated information.**

## **INDIGO FESTIVAL – A GATHERING OF CULTURES** **7 MARCH – 10 MARCH 2007**

Tracey Wood, Chairperson of Indigo Trust  
Ngatupuna Povaru (Puna), Trustee of Indigo Trust

- Festival to be held in Hamilton on 7 March – 10 March 2007.
- Tentative programme includes:
  - Indigo Film Festival
  - Indigo Treasure Exhibition

- Race Unity Speech Award
- Indigo Fashion Parade
- Taste of Indigo
- Indigo Street Parade
- Indigo Cultural Show
- Food and Art & Craft Stalls
- The ethnic communities own Indigo Festival.
- A working group is formed and additional members are needed.
- Anyone who is interested to take part in the Festival and in the working group, please contact Tracey Wood, 07 838 6424 [tracey@hcac.org.nz](mailto:tracey@hcac.org.nz) and Philip Yeung, 07 838 6765 [philip.yeung@hcc.govt.nz](mailto:philip.yeung@hcc.govt.nz).

### **OPEN DISCUSSION**

- Suggestion re, venue for forum e.g., Celebrating Age Centre, parking.
- Thank you to Philip and HCC for work being done.
- Lots of development, appreciated, HCC role is important and valuable.
- Encourage decision makers to use the knowledge and experience of non-English communities more.
- Celebrate the success stories.
- Avoid underestimating the value of migrant experience.
- Use opportunities and availability of knowledge to promote New Zealand and culture.
- Culture is a reciprocal process.
- Promote learning of languages; decisions makers need to support this.
- Allows for feedback and support of HCC action and etc
- Using cultural experiences/skills, wisdom and experience of migrants.
- Economic benefits, promote culture e.g., Whale Rider, explaining culture.
- Cultural Connectedness is shared responsibility.
- Promoting other languages, learning.
- Receiving report from this Forum and reporting back to Council (Philip: reporting in approximately 3 weeks).
- Councillor Pippa Mahood - Please thank your communities for the contributions they make. Ensure information is shared and ideas are discussed widely in communities.