

Cultural Diversity and Community Advisory Committee Member Profiles

Mr Jim Asimakopoulos OAM

Mr Jim Asimakopoulos lives in the City of Melton. He works as the Coordinator for the Abilities and Disability Awareness program in the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. Mr Asimakopoulos has cerebral palsy and has had other medical issues for which he has been treated as a patient at both Sunshine and Footscray Hospitals. He has worked as a strong community advocate for people with disability for over 25 years and was awarded an Order of Australia Medal in 2006 for his community service, his commitment to working in schools to inspire younger people, and his dedication to raising community awareness related to disability issues.

Ms Cuc Lam

Ms Cuc Lam left her whole family behind when she fled from Vietnam in 1978 with her husband. Since arriving in Australia Cuc has been an active member of the Vietnamese community and has had many leadership roles both within her community and in the broader Australian community. A former Maribyrnong City councillor, Cuc now works at Centrelink and continues supporting her family in Vietnam.

Ms Cecilia Gomez-Benitez

Cecilia has been a resident of Sunshine for about eleven years after migrating to Australia from El Salvador, Central America as widowed with her two daughters. Currently she is Coordinator of the Latino-Women's Association in Victoria. In previous roles Cecilia has worked at the Sunshine Family Relationship Centre, Asylum Seeker Resource Centre and Migrant Resource Centre North West Region. Cecilia has also worked at the Electorate Office for Sang Nguyen MLC, Member for Melbourne, West Province and for George Seitz MLA, Member for Keilor, as well as Electorate Office for Telmo Languiller MLA, State Member for Derrimut. Cecilia has a Bachelor of Arts in Public Relations and Advertising, Bachelor of Arts in Community Development (Australian Stream), a Graduate Diploma in Modern Languages and is presently studying for a Masters Degree in Aged Care Services Management. Cecilia is also a member of a number of community groups including President of the Foundation Salvadorian Communities in Australia, Brimbank Active Seniors, Maribyrnong Family Violence Working Group, Member of Emily's List of Australia, Victorian Immigrant and Refugee Women's Coalition, and the Feedback Committee of City West Water. She is fluent in both English and Spanish.

Ms Norma Serrano

Norma migrated to Australia in November 1988 with her husband and their two children, she finished her Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology from Centro Escolar University in the Philippines. Norma is a very successful Independent Mary Kay Sales Director for 24 years. Norma has a vast community work experience spanning over 20 years and an active volunteer in the Filipino-Australian community. She is an awardee of Victoria's Multicultural Awards for Excellence 2012- Community services and Leadership Excellence Award from Filipino Communities Council of Australia (FILCCA). Ex-officio Chairperson of Philippine-

Australian Foundation Inc., Ex-officio Chairperson of the Filipino Community Council of Victoria(FCCVI), Elected twice as Chairperson of the Filipino Community Council of Vic. 2007-2011, Elected treasurer of FCCVI in 2006, Board member FILCCA 2009-2011, Chairperson-Philippine/Australian Princess of Vic. Inc 1996 and 1998 , Norma has helped raised funds in the procurement of the Filipino-Australian Multi Purpose Centre located at 93 Cowper Street, Footscray, Victoria, Active member of The Filipino Community Welfare Services of Victoria , The LUZVIMINDA Filipino Women's Group and Founder/Servant leader of the Power of Devotion Prayer Group for fourteen years. Norma is currently employed as part time Centre/Aged Care Manager of FCCVI. Her accomplishments, coupled with her great love for voluntary community service and unquestionable dedication for the cause of the families, youth, the disabled and the ageing regardless of ethnicity are her strongest points.

Ms Rosemary Ellen Madden

Ms Madden has lived in the Western Health catchment for over a decade and is currently employed as Community Engagement Officer with Centrelink. Based on her personal and professional connections Ms Madden feels that she is able to represent the voices of a range of consumers including the Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender Intersex (GLBTI) community as well as, people who experience financial hardship, mental health substance addiction. Ms Madden is a member of a number of community groups and volunteers for organisations in the West.

Mr Eamonn O'Toole

Mr O'Toole has been a member of the Western Health Consumer Information Review for the past two years. He is originally from Ireland and has live in Australia for the past 10 years. He has worked as a registered nurse worked in the UK and Ireland. Mr O'Toole is currently employed with the Red Cross and manages services which support disadvantage communities across Victoria. He currently volunteers for Altona Lifesaving Club and is also a school council representative. Mr O'Toole brings his clinical experience and experience of working with disadvantaged communities to the Committee.

Mrs Carolyn Rowan

Carolyn has lived in the Melton since 1978, and has raised her family in the West. Carolyn has worked in Medicare for 27 years and is now retired and gives her time as a consumer representative for Western Health as a member of the VCCC. Carolyn also divides her time between Walter and Eliza Hall Institute at Melbourne University as a "Buddy", and as a member of the CAC for Djerrwarrh Health Services acting on their Quality and Safety committee.

As Carolyn comes from a European background, and is deeply interested in Health Literacy.

Carolyn has been a member of the Cultural Diversity and Community Advisory Committee since July 2016