

ITEM 3. KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE SPONSORSHIP – SETTLEMENT SERVICES INTERNATIONAL**FILE NO: S117676****SUMMARY**

On 14 September 2015, Council resolved (in part) that the Chief Executive Officer would work with Settlement Services International to confirm what financial or in-kind support the City could provide to help incoming refugees.

On 3 and 4 November 2016, Settlement Services International, in partnership with the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia, will host the inaugural National Multicultural Women's Conference 2016, *Influencing change: Vision and Impact*.

The conference aims to bring together women from all backgrounds to share knowledge, inform the national policy agenda, and recognise and celebrate the outstanding contributions that women from diverse backgrounds make to our society.

Workshops will focus on key themes including gender equality, health and wellbeing, ageing, disability and enterprise. This is the first time that a national women's conference will facilitate engagement with women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds to identify common issues and workshop initiatives to promote positive outcomes for women.

Settlement Services International is the largest not-for-profit humanitarian settlement organisation in Australia, and provides services in the areas of humanitarian settlement, accommodation, employment readiness, asylum seeker assistance, small business start-up support, foster care and disability support in NSW. Settlement Services International also leads the NSW Settlement Partnership consortium, which comprises 22 organisations that work together to deliver the Commonwealth funded Settlement Services Program to new migrants, humanitarian entrants and refugees.

Settlement Services International has applied for sponsorship of the conference under the City's Knowledge Exchange Sponsorship Program. Grant funds provided by the City would be used to subsidise delegate places for migrant and refugee women who might otherwise not be able to afford to attend.

The request for sponsorship has been assessed against the aims of the City's Knowledge Exchange Sponsorship Program and was found to strongly align with the majority of the sponsorship program's key outcomes, in particular:

- encouraging the exchange of ideas and knowledge;
- the development of strong networks through which participants can share resources and acquire new knowledge and skills; and
- contributing to the development of the industry sector.

The conference also shows a clear alignment with Strategic Objective 6 of *Sustainable Sydney 2030* of a vibrant, diverse and inclusive community.

It is recommended that cash sponsorship of \$8,000 (excluding GST) be provided to Settlement Services International for the National Multicultural Women's Conference 2016. The sponsorship package would provide the City with opportunities for logo placement; registration for at least two delegates to the conference; an advertisement and City of Sydney branding in conference materials; and inserts in the conference satchel.

RECOMMENDATION

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve cash sponsorship of \$8,000 (excluding GST) under the Knowledge Exchange Sponsorship Program to Settlement Services International for the National Multicultural Women's Conference 2016; and
- (B) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and administer a sponsorship agreement with Settlement Services International.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

BACKGROUND

1. In 2014-15, Settlement Services International's Humanitarian Settlement Service case load for refugee and humanitarian entrants of nearly 12,000 people, represented 86 per cent of all cases in NSW, and 30 per cent of offshore visa grants nationally. Settlement Services International endeavours to prepare clients for social and economic independence by linking them to volunteers, social and recreational activities, work readiness programs, affordable private housing, basic healthcare, and by supporting them through case management to develop skills and knowledge that will allow them to live independently.
2. Conference partner, Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia, is the peak national body representing Australians from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Its mission is to overcome the overt and implicit systemic barriers facing Australians from multicultural backgrounds at all stages of settlement in order to realise a truly equitable and inclusive society. In their 2015-16 Federal Budget Priorities Statement, the Federation identified that a large percentage of qualified immigrants remain unemployed, of which a large percentage are women who face multiple barriers to equal participation in the workforce and wider community, such as discrimination based on gender, cultural, religious and linguistic biases.
3. The conference will address a broad range of topics related to multicultural women's issues, and the program will include a number of high profile national speakers on areas such as health, wellbeing and safety, economic security, employment, education and enterprise, ageing, creativity, embracing diversity in disability, race and belonging.
4. The Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia and Settlement Services International are committed to ensuring that a diverse range of organisations and delegates are represented at the conference, including women who may be usually excluded from costly leadership and development opportunities. To secure the inclusiveness and accessibility of the project, they are seeking funding to implement an accessible fee model to enhance participation of migrant and refugee women.
5. Grant funds provided by the City would be used to offset the overall costs of running the conference, as well as to subsidise the concessional delegate places being made available for migrant and refugee women who might otherwise not be able to afford to attend.
6. The request for funding has been assessed against the aims of the City's Knowledge Exchange Sponsorship Program and was found to strongly align with the majority of the sponsorship program's key outcomes, in particular:
 - (a) encouraging the exchange of ideas and knowledge; and
 - (b) developing strong networks through which participants can share resources and acquire new knowledge and skills.
7. The conference's key focus and themes also show a clear alignment with the strategic objectives of *Sustainable Sydney 2030* and its goal and targets for fostering a vibrant, diverse and inclusive community, as well as with the following principles articulated in the draft Social Sustainability Policy:
 - (a) Sydney is a welcoming, socially connected city that embraces diversity; and

- (b) Sydney is a just city that respects human rights and dignity.
8. The City values and respects its multicultural society, and provides broad-based targeted services and programs to ensure that all members of the community, including women, have equal opportunity to develop their full potential and take an active part in community and social life.
 9. At the time of the 2011 Census in the City of Sydney Local Government Area (LGA), over 14,000 women had arrived in Australia within the five years prior, over 26,000 women spoke a language other than English at home, and nearly 35,000 women residents were born overseas.
 10. Providing the opportunity to attend this important national conference will contribute towards building the capacity and resilience of women from migrant and refugee backgrounds living or working in the City LGA.
 11. It is recommended that cash sponsorship of \$8,000 (excluding GST) be provided to Settlement Services International for the National Multicultural Women's Conference 2016 from funding available in the Grants and Sponsorship program budget for 2016/17.
 12. At a minimum, the sponsorship package would provide the City with the opportunity for:
 - (a) two delegate registrations;
 - (b) logo placement on website, conference e-zines, presentation slides and conference signage;
 - (c) full-page advertisement and organisation profile in conference program; and
 - (d) inserts in the conference satchel.

KEY IMPLICATIONS

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030

13. *Sustainable Sydney 2030* is a vision for the sustainable development of the city to 2030 and beyond. It includes 10 strategic directions to guide the future of the city, as well as 10 targets against which to measure progress. This sponsorship request is aligned with the following strategic directions and objectives:
 - (a) Direction 1 - A Globally Competitive and Innovative City – the conference aims to foster and strengthen multicultural women's leadership and economic participation.
 - (b) Direction 6 - Vibrant Local Communities and Economies – the conference aims to empower women, increase collaboration and connection, and provide leadership, networking and mentoring opportunities.

Organisational Impact

14. Sponsorship of the conference will result in the nomination of a City staff member to provide contract management and coordination services.

Social / Cultural / Community

15. The conference aims to bring together women from all backgrounds to share knowledge, inform the national policy agenda, and recognise and celebrate the outstanding contributions that women from diverse backgrounds make to our society. It aims to showcase and learn from, in particular, the resilience and strength of immigrant and refugee women, and enhance their social and economic participation through networking, leadership and mentorship opportunities. Workshops will focus on key themes including gender equality, health and wellbeing, ageing, disability and enterprise. This is the first time that a national women's conference will facilitate engagement with women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds to identify common issues and workshop initiatives to promote positive outcomes for women.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

16. Funding of \$8,000 (excluding GST) for sponsorship of the conference is available in the Grants and Sponsorship program budget for the 2016/17 financial year.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

17. Section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993.

CRITICAL DATES / TIME FRAMES

18. The National Multicultural Women's Conference 2016 will take place on 3 and 4 November 2016.

ANN HOBAN

Director City Life

Jemma Watson, Manager Grants
Jackie Campisi, Social Policy Officer