

The Future of Darebin's Intercultural Centre

CONSULTATION SUMMARY

NOVEMBER 2019

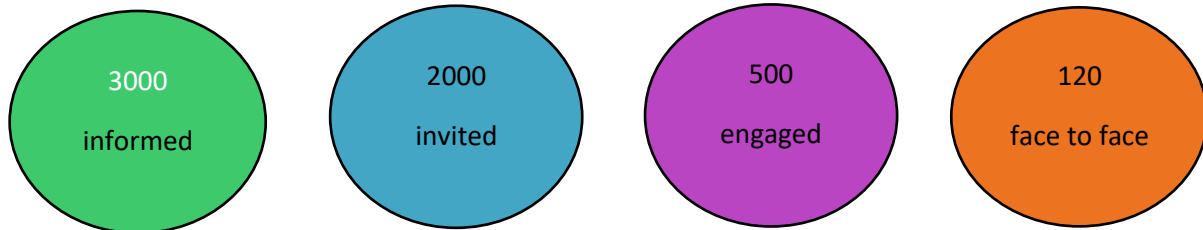
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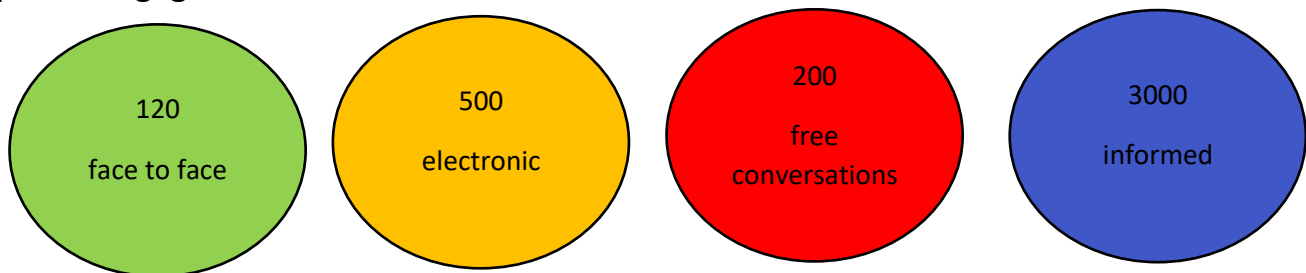
November 2019

Consultation snapshot

Reach of consultation



Types of engagement



Methodology



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The Future of Darebin's Intercultural Centre consultation took place during October 2019 and included public promotion, information sharing and engagement activities. The intention was to test out the temperature for changing the location of the Intercultural Centre, from 59A Roseberry Avenue to 350 High Street Preston, and the Centre's approach. Participants were asked to consider what would make them feel welcome at a relocated Intercultural Centre and to consider what would be required to make the new Centre truly welcoming and accessible to diverse community members.

Snapshot

Estimated number of households/organisations informed	3000
Estimated number of people/organisations engaged directly	120
Information session attendance	40
Other direct engagements	50
Estimated conversations between staff and community members	30
Your Say Darebin: Site visits	402
Your Say Darebin: Informed visitors	117
Your Say Darebin: Aware visitors	310
Your Say Darebin: Document downloads	156
Your Say Darebin: Comments	17
Newsletters reach	2000

Estimated percentage of approval for relocation of the Darebin Intercultural Centre and a revised approach: 90%

Communities engaged

Sample of communities directly engaged	Sample of communities informed
Vietnamese Elderly Person's Group	Preston Mosque
3Knd	Friends of Baucau
U3A – University of the Third Age	Nepalese Association of Victoria
PRACE – Preston Adult Community Education Inc	Australian Macedonian Disability Pensioners
Melbourne Polytechnic	Diamond Valley Learning Centre
Darebin Progress Association	Hope Christian Church
Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee	Sicilia Bella Folk Group
Darebin Ethnic Communities Council	Darebin Greek Women's Senior Citizens
Indochinese Group	Italian Women's Club of Reservoir
Darebin Photographic Society	Hellenic Cultural Association

Methodology

The consultation included a multilayered approach that consisted of a Discussion Paper, a 2-page Summary document, on and off-line collateral, and a centralised project page on Your Say Darebin, inviting comments and providing information. An advertised open-door policy at the Intercultural Centre, during the consultation period, and deeper engagement opportunities at two information sessions, provided the opportunity for people to speak to Officers one on one or in



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groups. Printed collateral was translated into 10 community languages and distributed to CALD community groups and organisations.

	Dates	Process	Est # reached
1	2 weeks prior to consultation	Stakeholder mapping	1600
2	6 October	Email invitation to attend an information session or respond to survey	1600
3	8 – 30 October	Online survey	400
4	14 – 15 October	Postcard translated into 10 languages and English distributed to community hubs, libraries, Neighbourhood Houses and agencies	1000
5	16 October	Information Session #1	20
6	17 October	Email invitation to attend an information session or respond to survey to Darebin Intercultural Centre subscribers	1000
7	22 October	Intercultural Centre e-newsletter and various newsletters such as Children and Family Services and Arts	1000
8	24 October	Information Session #2	20
9	8 – 30 October	Open door policy at the Intercultural Centre including phone calls, emails, group and individual meetings and drop in	50
10	8 – 30 October	Corporate web home page presence throughout the consultation, social media throughout the consultation period through corporate channels and shared eg: arts, Darebin Arts Centre, Northcote Town Hall Arts Centre, business	500

Summary of feedback

There was overwhelming support and enthusiasm for the relocation of Darebin's Intercultural Centre.

All stakeholders encouraged Council to properly resource the redevelopment of the civic precinct and saw adequate resourcing as a key to success. It was emphasised that the move would require careful consideration of design principles, based around community input and amenity, that would effectively welcome the Intercultural Centre into a new home.

There was a recognition that the current location of the Intercultural Centre, and the co-location of the Centre with the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) at 59A Roseberry Street, is unsustainable. For the following reasons:

1. The Darebin Intercultural Centre and VCAT are incompatible because of their different purpose and the ways in which they are used by community members.
2. The Darebin Intercultural Centre must be welcoming and safe: in the current location users are vulnerable to the different needs and experiences of VCAT clients and staff, spaces are separated, and sight lines are blocked.
3. The current building and spaces are not fit-for-purpose and connections between people, staff and activities are hampered by the lack of open plan and flexible spaces.



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4. The Darebin Intercultural Centre has outgrown the current location, many of the activities that are on offer are over-subscribed and cannot be accommodated in the spaces available. Often these activities have been moved to the Preston City and Shire Halls.

There was a genuine enthusiasm for the Centre and the move was viewed as an opportunity for the Intercultural Centre to be reinvigorated. This is consistent with the proposed new approach to programming, hire of spaces and the overall mission and vision of the Centre.

I would like to 'THANK YOU' as this session has explained everything so clearly. It is hard to read and understand what this all means on paper. I love the people and staff at the Intercultural Centre. I always make new friends on movie nights and everyone at the Centre is very welcoming. I love the vibe and atmosphere, and yes, it is a very welcoming place. If the new place is a better space, I can't wait.

Information Session, 24 October

It was noted that the move and redefinition of the Darebin Intercultural Centre in a new location should include the following elements:

- Acknowledgement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (First Nations) should be embedded in building design and program delivery.
- Partnership with the Aboriginal community and ATSI advisory is essential to the future of the Centre.
- A Transition Plan is needed to ensure the community are involved in the relocation and future vision of the Centre.
- Consideration needs to be given to the history and re-definition of civic spaces so that these spaces become 'welcoming' to all members of the community and civic functions are demystified in the process
- Community development and outreach are required to bring new communities to the Centre and to increase participation by marginalised communities, and those who are not currently engaged.
- Proper resourcing of the Centre redevelopment was considered vital to success.

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners Wurundjeri Woiwurrung people. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island flags and images. This would make me feel like we are part of the Intercultural Centre, not separate from it.

Your Say Darebin, 14 October

The Centre should have strong emphasis on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, stories, art and physical location. It should be welcoming and culturally safe space for Aboriginal people and the programs should provide gainful employment opportunities for Aboriginal people to share and teach their culture.

Your Say Darebin, 14 October

Information session #1

Attendance: 20 people attended the session including representatives from 3 KnD, Darebin Ethnic Communities Council, the Vietnamese Elderly Person's Group, Indochinese Group, PRACE, Darebin's U3A, Melbourne Polytechnic, Intercultural Centre staff and community members.

Summary: Overall, the relocation and updated approach were received enthusiastically. Some concerns were expressed about the civic buildings being intimidating to people from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and refugee or recently

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arrived backgrounds. There was a comment about the importance of maintaining a commitment to 'interculturalism' and a recognition that to do this a strong community outreach approach would be required. There was a desire for reciprocal relationships that would foster skills development and partnerships, with other local organisations.

Would like more opportunities of community development and working in collaboration. Emphasised that while the opportunity for space to hire is great, but also commented that external organisations are also seeking and wanting to tap into IC expertise.

Information Session, 16 October

Information session #2

Attendance: 20 people attended including representatives from the Active and Aging Board, a volunteer English teacher, community members that attend Intercultural Centre events and community members that currently use Intercultural Centre rooms, members of Darebin's Photographic Club and Intercultural Centre staff were also in attendance.

Summary: There was some discussion about the relocation in terms of the existing spaces that are available in the civic buildings. This discussion included questions about noise amenity and how sharing of spaces would work. One community member said that the session was very informative and thanked Council staff for their openness and for the clarification. Other discussion centred on the practicalities of engagement and included reference to public liability, existing users, their ongoing relationships to the new location.

The shire hall is a very big open place. How do you control noise, dividers in the room will not work well? Will it be closed off? How will this shared office space work? The shire hall is one big room and not lots of smaller rooms currently which we need for English pronunciation classes for example.

Information Session, 24 October

Other meetings, conversations, emails, phone calls and feedback

General feedback was positive with the only concern being the provision of office space and programmable/meeting space for organisations such as the Darebin Ethnic Communities Council and their visitors. In the main discussions centred around the importance of people feeling welcome and the space being designed in a multi-purpose style so more than one thing can be happening at the same time without interference. There was a desire to see the project undertaken well with proper budget dedicated to the works, and it was noted that a fit-for-purpose approach was required.

Your Say Darebin summary: There were only a small number of comments made on Your Say Darebin. These comments mainly focused on programming ideas, for example:

I enjoyed the cooking in the evening you used to do every month.

It would be wonderful if the Centre could become a resource for local schools to help celebrate diversity.

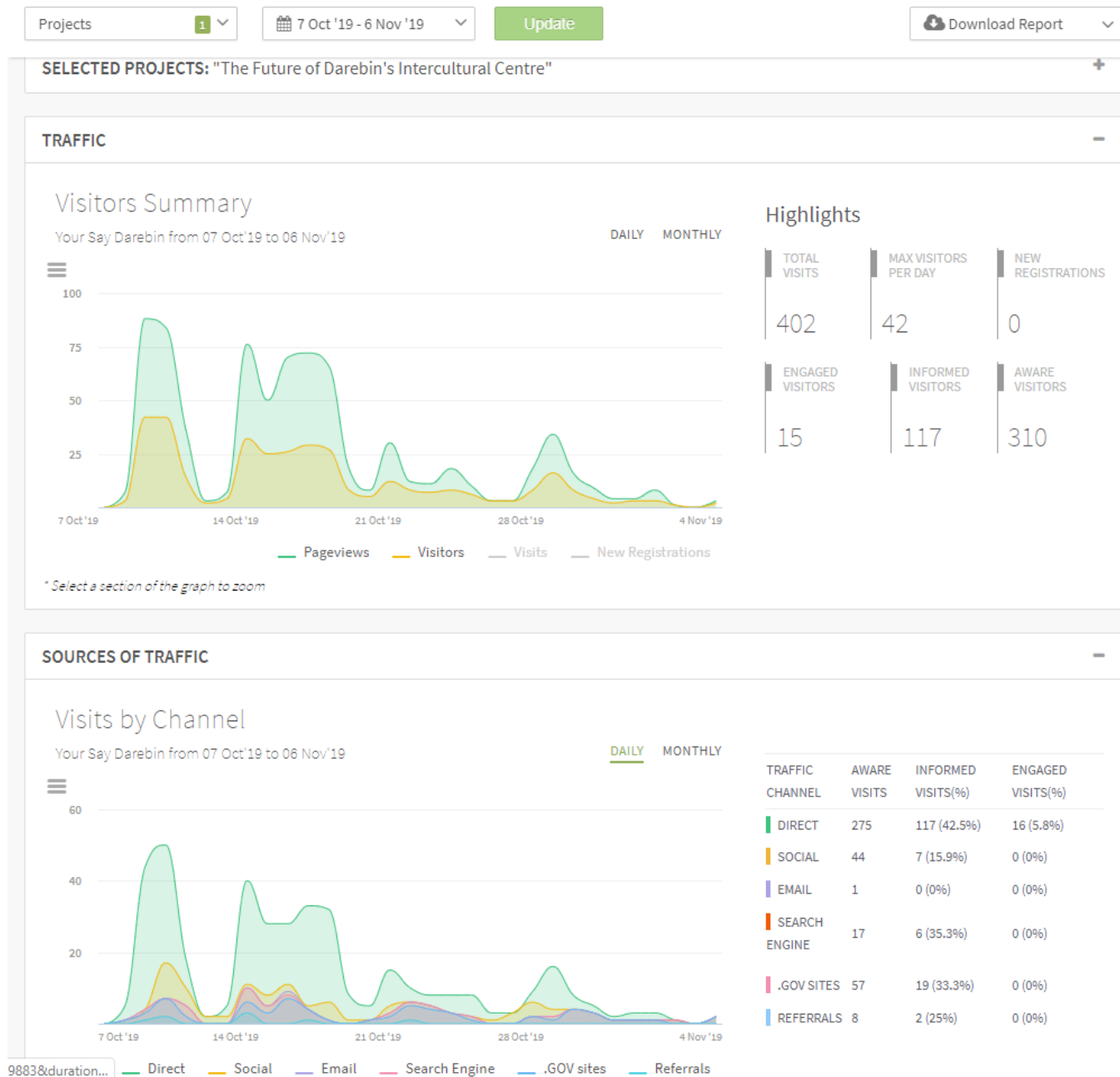
I would like a space that inspires creativity and will encourage others. This could happen by having greenery and natural lighting.

Why not have a display perhaps weekly of various countries and the contribution to Australia, perhaps focusing on local identities in the Darebin area.



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Your Say Darebin traffic summary



Additional consultations of relevance

Future Preston: Community Directions Report (November 2018) – provides a strong parallel to the renewed approach being proposed for Darebin's Intercultural Centre and key findings support the relocation to a more prominent, historically resonant, accessible and identifiable location. Such as:

Local identity – Central Preston's local identity should build on the community's deeply ingrained value of sustainability, diversity in all its forms – layers of history, the range of prices and activities, variety of retail and built form, people, places, materials and detail.