Mission

To promote respect, understanding, cooperation and appreciation for the many religious and faith traditions within our community.

Vision

A cohesive, inclusive and harmonious community.

Goals

MIN sets out to:

- Generate awareness of all faiths, beliefs and traditions in the community in order to promote understanding and harmony.

- Promote multi-cultural and multi-religious inclusivity amongst the various religious and secular groups and communities residing within the City of Melton.

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MIN is currently made up of the following faiths: Baha'i, Christian, Hindu, Muslim, Scientology, Sikh, Zoroastrian. All faiths are welcome

Our membership is made up of diverse cultures including: Persian, Pacific Islander, Indian and Pakistani. We are eager to include more new and emerging groups

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Examples of MIN events

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Melton Interfaith Network

Intercultural Competence and Social Cohesion

Intercultural competence is the ability to function effectively across cultures, to think and act appropriately, and to communicate and work with people from different cultural backgrounds – at home or abroad. Intercultural competence is a valuable asset in an increasingly globalised world where we are more likely to interact with people from different cultures and countries who have been shaped by different values, beliefs and experiences.

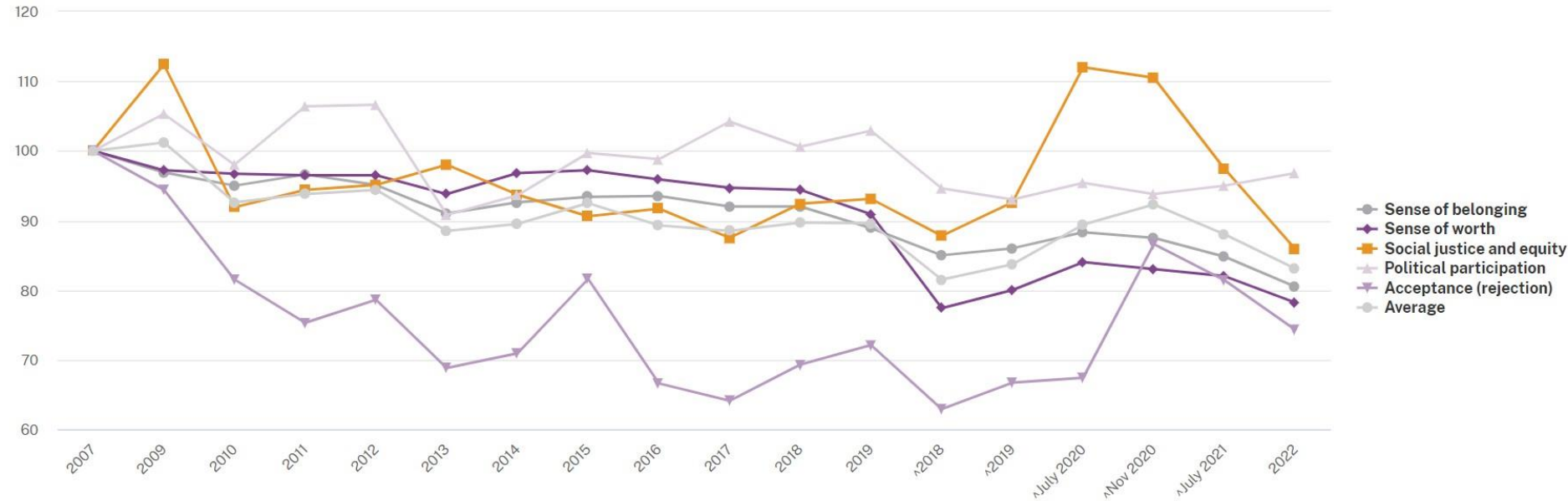Intercultural competency leads to improved social cohesion which leads to improved physical and mental health.

PILLARS OF SOCIAL COHESION

> **Belonging:** the sense of pride and belonging people have in Australia and in Australian life and culture.

> **Worth:** the degree of emotional and material well-being across society, as measured through levels of happiness and financial satisfaction.

> **Social inclusion and justice:** perceptions of economic fairness in Australian society and trust in the Federal Government.

> **Participation:** active engagement in political activities and the political process, including through voting, signing a petition, contacting Members of Parliament, and attending protests.

> **Acceptance and rejection:** attitudes to immigrant diversity, support for ethnic minorities, and experience of discrimination.

Social Cohesion Index Yearly Results

Legend:
- Sense of belonging
- Sense of worth
- Social justice and equity
- Political participation
- Acceptance (rejection)
- Average

Intercultural competency leads to improved social cohesion which leads to improved physical and mental health.

Six Steps to Increase Intercultural Competence

1. Develop cultural self awareness
2. Learn about other cultures
3. Build cross-cultural relationships
4. Develop empathy
5. Enhance your communication skills
6. Learn to manage conflict