
E C C W A

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

2019 - 2020



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Partners and funding bodies:

ECCWA extends its gratitude to the following (listed in alphabetical order) for their financial and other (in kind) support and assistance:

- Bendigo Bank, North Perth
- City of Belmont
- City of Stirling
- City of Vincent
- Council of the Ageing
- Curtin University of Western Australia
- Department of Finance
- Department of Social Services (Commonwealth)
- Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia
- Ishar Multicultural Women's Health Centre
- Multicultural Services Centre of Western Australia
- Office of Multicultural Interests of WA

Peak bodies

ECCWA is a member of the following peak bodies and extends its appreciation for the support and assistance it received during 2019-20:

- Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia
- Community Employers Western Australia
- Refugee Council of Australia Shelter WA (on a reciprocal basis)
- Health Consumers' Council (on a reciprocal basis)
- Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence (on a reciprocal basis)

ECCWA consultations

The following people accepted our invitation to be members of the above panel and we extend our thanks and appreciation for their support and guidance:

- Jenny Au Yeong, (Former CEO, EDAC)
- Dr. Indira Pattni, (Management Consultant and Clinical Psychologist)

- Dr. Susan Lee (PHD, MPH, DintH)
- Mr Ramdas Sankaran (CEO of Multicultural Services Centre WA)
- Peter Rozsy (Migration Agent)

The management committee extends its thanks and appreciation to all ECCWA members both long term and recent. ECCWA is fortunate that well established agencies, both mainstream and multicultural that service migrants and refugees are now its members. With their support ECCWA has effectively advocated and lobbied on many issues of concerns and its substantial achievements as detailed in the report that follows are ample testimony of their resilience and determination.

ECCWA Constitutional objects

a. To foster participation by ethnic communities in the development of a cohesive, culturally pluralistic Australian society bearing in mind the historical contribution which all ethnic communities have made to the development of the same.

b. To act as the peak body for ethnic communities in Western Australia, which shall advocate for the rights of ethnic communities in ensuring the protection of these rights.

c. To participate in government and quasi government bodies established for the purposes of developing the Council's objectives.

d. To promote joint action and co-operation between ethnic communities on issues of common concern while assisting and encouraging the full participation of ethnic groups in the community in the social, economic and cultural life of society.

e. To ensure the rights of the ethnic communities including effective participation in decisions which affect them, and encourage the sharing of community resources.

f. To provide multi-lingual welfare and counselling services to assist the aged, women, children, youth and ethnic people with disabilities.

g. To render such assistance as the Council shall consider appropriate for the relief of persons in necessitous circumstances.

h. To provide interpreting and/or translating services in specialized area of need.

i. To do and to perform all acts, matter and things as are charitable and for benevolent purposes having public benefit in accordance with the law of the State of Western Australia and the law of the Commonwealth of Australia and to disseminate any information within a Social Justice framework that achieves the objectives of the Council in ensuring equity and access to and for ethnic communities.

j. To increase the awareness of the public that Australia is a Multicultural Society.

k. To render any other assistance, services or facilities that the Council might consider necessary as the need arises.

l. To undertake any other activity to promote multiculturalism and ethnic welfare.

OUR VISION, MISSION & VALUES

Our vision

A fair and just society; one in which all people are encouraged to participate fully in the life of the community and are supported to reach their full potential, where diversity is valued and people live in harmony.

Our mission

To work in partnership with its member organisations, the community and government in the development and establishment of services and facilities that will ensure:

- The wellbeing of the culturally and linguistically diverse community of Western Australia
- The participation of people in the decision making mechanisms in this society
- Equitable access to, and an equitable share of, the resources of this State
- Diversity and co-existence.

Our values and principles

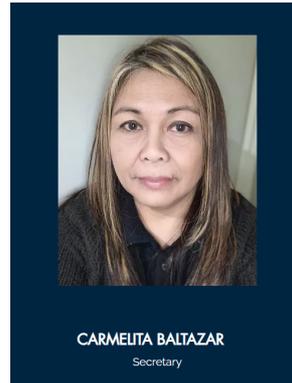
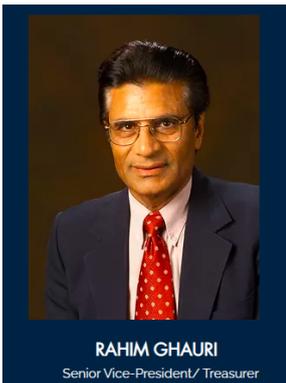
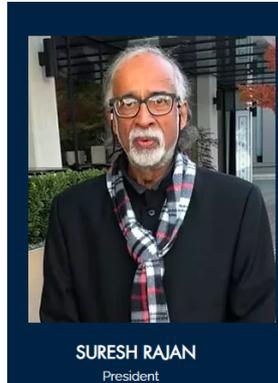
In working towards its vision , we encompass the following values and principles:

- Human Rights
- Equity
- Social Justice
- Participation
- Representation
- Empowerment
- Participation and Representation
- Community harmony
- Citizenship rights and responsibilities.
- Collaboration and cooperative partnerships
- Integrity, respect and responsibility
- Strong leadership
- Ethical standards of administration and management
- Openness and accountability to stakeholder & the community.



ECCWA'S BOARD

Office Bearers



Management Committee

The following members were elected at the 2019 AGM:

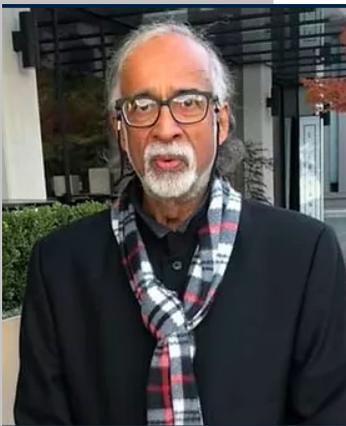
- Ranjit Ratnayake
- Alphonse Mulumba
- Elizabeth Lang
- Hadi Assanteh
- Michael Wu
- Paul Kyaw
- Satish Nair
- Gaelle Gouilou
- Dr Seyed Hassan Fallahzadeh
- Virginia Aden



ECCWA's Management Committee 2019

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

“Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin.” – Mother Theresa



It is almost ironic that the words of Mother Theresa as cited above as the title of my President's address for our Annual Report are apposite to where we find ourselves in 2020. We live in an era now where the words “New Normal”, “Unprecedented” and “Social Distancing” have become the norm to determine our behaviour!

It is probably wise to reflect on the position that we found ourselves in before the pandemic was declared officially. The McGowan Labor government in this state was starting to hit its straps with a form of reform agenda that showed considerable promise. It certainly appeared to a few veterans in the space of Multiculturalism, such as myself and our former President Ramdas Sankaran, that we were likely to see an era of calm. There appeared to be no sign of any further acts of terror occurring here or overseas and the relative calm was almost eerie.

And, of course, along came COVID19 to shatter all of those delusions. With the pandemic came an outbreak of another pandemic. This time it was a pandemic that has been around for a lot longer than any virus from overseas. This was the pandemic of racism.

Some years ago, ECCWA did some studies on the level of racism and vilification that our new and emerging communities were facing. Unsurprisingly, we found that every single time there was an extraneous shock to our world, whether this was a natural disaster or an act of terror, we saw a spike in the reported incidents of racism that were being perpetrated here in Western Australia.

This pattern of behaviour remained true to form. Following the declaration of the pandemic, we saw a massive outbreak of racist activity. That has continued till today, some months later. People of Asian appearance began to be targeted and the perpetrators, emboldened by sheer racists such as the President of the United States of America, inter alia, were brazen enough to daub our Freeway system, call out people of colour and generally raise their vilifying activities considerably. The response from our Federal Government has been quite good with Ministers and the Prime Minister calling this behaviour out on every occasion they were able to. We, in WA, were well served by Senator Dean Smith, who conveyed our concerns to the Prime Minister and also moved a motion in the senate to condemn this behaviour. We sincerely thank Senator Smith for his actions herein.

Whilst the outward condemnation of this behaviour has been pleasing, we still remain concerned as to the systemic racism that still exists here. One of the manifestations of this systemic racism remains the lack of funding for transcultural mental health services. At a time when CaLD communities remain under siege from so many different angles we remain unserved by a truly culturally diverse mental health service. This has to change before the potential for fatal actions rises again.

The final manifestation of a mental health issue can usually be an act of suicide. Since around 2008, when I made a submission on behalf of ECCWA to a Senate Committee on Suicide Prevention, we have been asking for the collection of ethnicity data in the suicide numbers. This would allow us to extract meaningful data in regard to the incidence of suicide ideation. To date no one has undertaken to make this a reality. We will continue to ask for this until governments implement it as a priority.

At ECCWA we have created the Racism Matters webpage (accessible via the www.eccwa.org.au website). This page allows victims of racism to come to the webpage and report any acts of racism that have been perpetrated against them. We will then work with the victims and ensure that the matters are reported to the right agencies for further action. We will also use the material on the page to inform some of the agencies such as WA Police about any trends that we may discern in the community. We already have around 12 reports that have been lodged.

One of the other trends that we have seen in recent times is the growth in the numbers of recruits to the white supremacist website. Unfortunately, this has been fuelled by lax language that has been used by the members of parliament such as those from One Nation and others of a similar ilk. We will continue to monitor these groups to keep abreast of any issues that may arise.

Another area that we have been working on assiduously is our relationship with the First Nations People in this country. As an advocacy group our position has been very clear. Whilst we may advocate on behalf of the CaLD and Multicultural communities, we will not do so at the further disadvantage of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups. We continue to work closely with the advocacy groups in those communities as well.

This past year has been a very rewarding one financially. A lot of our funding has been reinstated and we thank the Minister, Honourable Paul Papalia and his staff for their foresight herein. We thank Office of Multicultural Interests for their continued support. We have received funding from a number of others and they are all acknowledged in this report. But we extend our thanks to all of them as well.

None of what we do is possible without the work of our outstanding staff and volunteers. My sincere thanks go to Vivienne Pillay, the EO at ECCWA. She has gathered a group of staff members who have proven to be worth their weight in gold.

My thanks go also to our dedicated management committee. Without them we would not be able to function appropriately. And our thanks also to their partners and friends for allowing them the time to undertake this task of advocacy.

We have work to do and to all our members, I ask again, if you can come with us on our journey to make this a fairer and more transparent human rights based society, we will be grateful.

Suresh Rajan
President

#BlackLivesMatter

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT



It has been 18 months since I was appointed as the Executive Officer for ECCWA and this past year like everyone else ECCWA was faced with the impacts of the Pandemic.

However, we remained focused on our objectives and during 2019-2020 ECCWA, continued increasing our membership and helping to provide services for our member organisations. We now have 67 Community members and this is steadily on the increase.

ECCWA through its Board, staff and volunteers worked under very difficult conditions as a result of the Covid -19 pandemic to ensure that ECCWA continued to provide information, advice and support to member organisations. This was done by ensuring daily information was provided to Communities on changes occurring in the restrictions and policies and ensuring our website and social media were up to date. Also, we ensured that we were available and accessible to members and made regular contact by phone with members during the lockdown. We currently are also communicating with other Community organisations who are not members of ECCWA to ensure that they too benefit from Community Support. ECCWA has also offered all members free membership for 2020-2021.

The 2019-2020 financial year has continued to be a re-building phase for the ECCWA and we have taken the opportunity to build relationships with Communities as well as potential organisations that we can develop future partnerships with. As a result, we commenced a project with Curtin University to do research in Sexually transmissible and Blood borne viruses in the CaLD Community and also joined a Multicultural Consortium led by Ishar to provide education on FDV to Communities and Culturally appropriate and responsive training to the FDV sector. Both these projects have been progressing well and in conjunction with the Ethnic Advocacy Support Team (EAST) have allowed us to maintain our direct contact with Community members to identify critical issues and gaps in services.

This led to us also launching our newest project in June 2020 – **RacismMatters** in response to the increased Racism incidents occurring during the pandemic.

ECCWA has been advised by Minister Papalia that we have been funded \$60,000 for the first six months of 2020-2021 and subject to the State budget of October 2020, a decision on funding for the second six months of 2020-2021 will be made. I will be pursuing this vigorously to ensure stability for staff and the projects we are undertaking.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board members who have supported me and the staff and volunteers for their passion, diligence and efforts.

I have spent much time in 2019-2020 meeting other CEO's of member organisations and Community Leaders to gain an understanding of what they see are the key issues facing them and the significant gaps in services and will continue to do this in 2020-2021. This also provides me with the opportunity to explain the direction of the ECCWA, the importance of systemic advocacy with a consolidated voice, and to encourage organisations and communities to work together particularly when faced with the impacts of the pandemic and its fallout. My goal, continues to be creating a strong peak body with a consolidated voice on systemic advocacy particularly in a climate where there is great uncertainty.

Vivienne Pillay
Executive Officer

POLICY, ADVOCACY & LOBBYING

ECCWA continues to work closely with culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) communities, relevant government and non-government agencies to achieve its vision of a diverse, fair, just and harmonious society in which all people have the opportunity to participate to reach their full potential. ECCWA has endeavoured to meet its vision and objectives via a range of activities in 2019-2020 and the main ones being:

1. POLICY, ADVOCACY & LOBBYING PROGRAM

Our policy and advocacy program focused on ensuring that systemic barriers that impede access of ethnic and religious minorities (ERM) and culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) individuals and communities and inhibit their participation in decision making processes of government and community are effectively addressed or removed. ECCWA sought to achieve this by enhancing the participation of ERM and CaLD people in the decision making processes of government and community and by advocating for equitable access of ERM and CaLD people to programs and services provided/funded by governments at the national, state and local levels.

Examples of the various activities undertaken in 2019-2020 are listed below;

1.1 Meeting with Minister Papalia the Minister for Multicultural Interests

The Hon. Minister Paul Papalia increased the funding for ECCWA in 2019-2020 to \$120,000 and ECCWA would like to thank him for this. It has allowed us to consolidate our core activities of Member support and Sector development and also has allowed us to work closely with Communities seeking their feedback and views and that of the views of various Service providers. This has allowed us to provide important policy feedback and advice on critical issues particularly during the period of the pandemic. This funding of \$120,000 for the financial year of 2019-2020 was administered through the Office of Multicultural Interests (OMI). At this meeting with Minister Papalia in September 2019, ECCWA raised with the Minister a number of issues for example Aged Care and Mental Health Services for CaLD communities, Support for International Students, Family and Domestic Violence and its impacts on the CaLD Community. Minister Papalia stressed that he wished to see ECCWA as the "Peak of Peaks" and was prepared to look at ways to advertise his support of the ECCWA. This core funding allows us to continue to enhance our working relationships with other Peaks and has opened up the channels for communication with other State and Federal government departments and agencies. We have also begun to develop a stronger working relationship with OMI as evidenced during the Pandemic.

1.2 CaLD Service Workgroups co-chaired by ECCWA and OMI

During the pandemic ECCWA worked in partnership with OMI to bring the CaLD Community together by creating a CaLD Service Workgroup which consisted of the CEO's of Service Providers to meet fortnightly to discuss issues that were relevant to our cohort and needed to be communicated to or from the WA Taskforces. This helped to facilitate consistency of Communication to Government on how CaLD Communities were being affected. Subsequent feedback from various Communities has stressed the importance of consistency of message for CaLD Communities in what was already a very confusing and distressful time.

1.3 Meeting with DG of Dept of Communities – Michelle Andrews

Viv and Ramdas Sankaran had a meeting with the Director-General of Communities and were able to raise the importance of ECCWA being recognised as the Peak body for Multicultural Interests. Viv highlighted that though the CaLD sector is a very vulnerable cohort ECCWA was often not included as an important stakeholder because it is not funded by the Department of Communities as a Peak body. ECCWA is funded by the Office of Multicultural Interests. The D/G recognised that this was inappropriate and that the objectives of any work needs to be about the outcomes for the cohort and that means all relevant Peaks should be invited to participate and she recommended that Vivienne write to the Nous Consultants to raise this issue as part of the Department's development towards future directions and sustainability. She also stressed that she was very keen to bring about change within the department to recognise the need to be culturally responsive and that meant to both Aboriginal people and the CaLD community.

1.4 Meeting with Regional Director of Dept of Home Affairs and Community Engagement team

Viv and Ramdas had a meeting with the Regional Director and highlighted the many issues that ECCWA comes across that are relevant to Home affairs. These included Citizenship issues, Partner visa Issues in relation to family and domestic violence, Refugee Issues. They were very keen to support ECCWA and were prepared to follow up cases and intervene where necessary. Since this time ECCWA has cemented a good relationship with the Community Engagement team and they consistently provide advice when asked and during the Pandemic were very happy to receive information and advice on what they needed to urgently do to ensure CaLD communities were kept informed of the pandemic. Examples were: the need for restrictions and information to be in various languages; and the importance of the use of Radio for communication.

1.5 Meeting with the Mental Health Commission.

Suicide within ethnic communities

This, is still a major concern for ECCWA with no specialised Multicultural mental health services available. ECCWA has continued to lobby the state and the commonwealth government to ensure that mental health and suicide prevention within ethnic communities are addressed in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner. Sadly, despite drawing the attention of the Deputy Premier and Health Minister, the Hon Roger Cook to the dire state of mental health within ethnic communities in Perth last year, and in particular the number of suicides that occurred in Perth which the Multicultural Services Centre of Western Australia drew to our attention, little has been done to improve the situation.

ECCWA lodged a submission in relation to the State's WA Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2025 in August 2019 and we hope that the State Government will take seriously the concerns we have raised.

During the pandemic, Suresh and Ramdas had a meeting with the Mental Health Commissioner to further enforce the importance for funding of Multicultural clinicians to be made available to the CaLD Community as more mental health issues were being identified by CaLD Service Providers as a result of the restrictions and lockdown. Vivienne subsequently had further discussions about the importance of Mental Health with WA Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA)

1.6 Meeting with Commissioner for Anti -Discrimination

Members of the ECCWA Board and Vivienne had a meeting with Commissioner Chin Tan the Australian Human Rights Commissioner on 26.02.20 and had a valuable discussion on various racism issues that have been occurring in WA. The Commissioner has offered to assist wherever necessary on issues that we may be addressing. Through our Racism Matters program, we keep in contact with the Australian Rights Commission.

1.7 WA Peaks Forum – WA Community Of Social Services (WACOSS)

ECCWA is a member of the WACOSS Peaks Forum and the Executive Officer attends them regularly on a monthly basis. Key issues such as the Sustainability and Equal Remuneration Order (ERO) Supplementation and the need for Department of Finance to have a more active and accountable role in relation to procurement are an example of issues discussed. During the Pandemic, meetings became weekly and then fortnightly to allow the peaks to consult on the various key issues to ensure consistency from the Not-for profit Sector in relation to feedback being provided to Government and their taskforces.

Ramdas also participated in the WACOSS-CEWA Forum on Tendering and Homelessness program funding. Issues in relation to inadequate funding and the impacts of the Equal remuneration order on the sector were looked at closely especially impacts on organisations where grants and service agreements have been consistently rolled over for a number of years without adequate and appropriate supplementation of costs.

1.8 FECCA Meetings- General and Disability Sub-committee and CEO's forum which during Covid were fortnightly now monthly.

Vivienne has been attending the Regular FECCA CEO's meetings to ensure WA is working collaboratively and consistently with the other ECC's in Australia. During the Pandemic, this was very beneficial as many of the issues were consistent Nationally and we were able to advocate to State and Commonwealth Governments in a consistent manner. Such issues like the impacts on Temporary Visa Holders, Racism incidents, the need for increased emergency relief money, the need for mental health support for CaLD communities, and the impact on Seniors in the CaLD Sector. These meetings became weekly and fortnightly during the pandemic but are normally on a monthly basis.

Suresh is also the Chair of FECCA's Disability Committee

1.9 CaLD FDV Taskforce workgroup

Vivienne was invited to join this workgroup and helped to provide feedback on the critical issues facing the CaLD Community. In addition, ECCWA in partnership with the Women's council for Family and Domestic Violence collaborated to create a Safety Flier for CaLD women during the Covid-19 lockdown. This was translated into 10 languages and distributed widely.

ECCWA also strongly advocated for the DV sector to review its response systems highlighting that apart from the Department of Communities funded DV Services responding to FDV, many other CaLD services funded by different departments particularly in the CaLD sector were regularly supporting CaLD women. These stats were not being recorded anywhere. Furthermore, it was important to note that regular feedback from the CaLD Communities is that the women often did not want to separate but in fact were seeking support services that could work with the family to reduce the FDV and help build healthy relationships.

1.10 Other women's Issues

- Family and Domestic Violence – ECCWA/Ishar FDV Submission to the Senate Inquiry into Family and Domestic Violence
- ACRATH Steering Group

- Women without Income
- Community of Practice Forum
- .CaLD Advocacy Network Forums – this is a forum of Specialist CaLD FDV advocates that meets fortnightly during the pandemic and now monthly to discuss issues and look for solutions.

Vivienne is a member of all of the above Working groups representing the views and issues facing the CaLD sector. Sadly, FDV was the Primary women's issue that Communities consistently raised with ECCWA.

1.11 Police FDV Advisory Group- in relation to CaLD persons

Vivienne is a regular member of this advisory group. Issues raised were the importance of the use of interpreters, the type of training for new recruits and the importance of cultural competency. Also, discussed was the need for support for those affected by alcohol and drugs.

This membership has also meant that ECCWA now has a good and strong working relationship with the WA Police Community Engagement Group.

1.12 SERC Meetings since Covid-19 these have been fortnightly

ECCWA is a member of the State Emergency relief Committee and hence hears regularly about the difficulties being faced across the State. ECCWA provides a CaLD perspective and is able to bring forward the the views of CaLD Service providers and is also there to make recommendations on ways to assist the CaLD Community. This forum actively supported the needs of temporary visa holders during the pandemic even writing to the Premier about the need for support.

1.13 Multicultural Advisory Forum – Sector involvement in relation to Centrelink issues

ECCWA regularly participate in the Department of Human Services Multicultural Advisory Forum and have in the past taken the opportunity to advocate on the issues of:

- Work Bonuses for Carer's payment.
- Centrelink's policy on Proof of Australian Parentage for children seeking Special benefit due to Domestic Violence.

This regular connection has allowed us to keep abreast of the multitude of changes especially during the pandemic. The EAST staff in particular have developed strong relationships with the Multicultural Community team and in fact often work with the team to the advantage of the CaLD community members.

1.14 CEWA Forums-such as Sustainability and ERO forums

Ramdas and Vivienne participated in the CEWA Sustainability and ERO forums and supported the petitions and ongoing advocacy plans to ensure Service providers receive appropriate funding to compensate for the impact of the ERO. This was aimed at the State Government and had some success.

1.15 Racism Issues

ECCWA actively raised concerns about the variety of Racism incidents occurring during the pandemic across Australia and Suresh released a number of media releases asking the Community to remain calm and highlighting how appalled we were at the language and messages coming from some members of parliament. Many of these incidents were targeted at the Asian community though there were a variety of incidents. This resulted in a Statement being made by Minister Papalia denouncing the acts of racism and the setting up of a Racism working group. In addition, ECCWA felt that there were those who may not have felt comfortable to report incidents and hence launched a Program called **Racism Matters** and a website **www.racismmatters.com.au** allowing people to anonymously report incidents and if choosing to provide their details receive support from an advocate.

2.2 Ethnic Advocacy and Support Team

This team was funded by OMI from January 2019 till December 2019 and since then has been funded through project income and fees for service. Though as a result of Covid-19 fees for service were suspended. The team consists of 0.53 FTE paid staff - two very experienced advocates. Prior to January 2019 the program was operating with these workers in a volunteer capacity.

For the 12 months 2019- 2020 EAST provided services to 75 clients and their families from across the metropolitan area. As far North of the river as Butler to as far South of the river as Rockingham.

Sadly, many of the clients assisted (75%) have had issues related directly to or post Family and Domestic Violence. While the majority of FDV work has involved women and children, EAST has also assisted male victims and perpetrators during this period with successful results. EAST have also provided support to clients on a number of other issues, such as Aged care, Centrelink, NDIS, ATO and Immigration. EAST is unique in that it provides support services to persons who may not be eligible for any other Government funded support services and offers a wrap around service. The East team continue to be very busy with referrals from various sources.

2.3 Curtin University Research Project

ECCWA is working in partnership with Curtin University and other organisations nationally to conduct a survey on Migrant Blood -borne viruses and sexual health.

The aim of this survey is to understand how overseas-born people living in Australia think and act in relation to sexually transmissible infections and blood-borne viruses.

This information is very important and we are encouraging those of you from the Countries listed for the survey - ie Countries in North-East Asia, South-East Asia and the Sub-Saharan Africa to please take the time approximately 10 to 15 minutes to assist us by completing the survey.

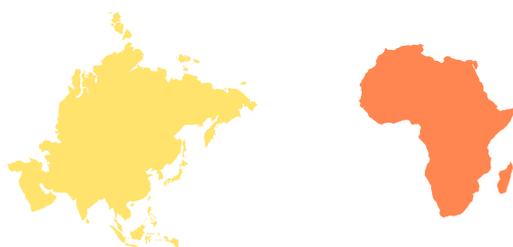
This is the link to the MiBSS survey for mass emails:

[https://curtin.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5zQwqI3HhsCVATX?Source=EmailECCWA MiBSS |](https://curtin.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5zQwqI3HhsCVATX?Source=EmailECCWA%20MiBSS)

Qualtrics Survey Solutions Qualtrics sophisticated online survey software solutions make creating online surveys easy. Learn more about Research Suite and get a free account today.

curtin.au1.qualtrics.com

We are currently seeking a total of 450 participants for WA.



2.4 FDV Multicultural Consortium Project with ISHAR

ECCWA is part of a FDV Capacity Building consortium led by Ishar. The partners involved are Ishar, Metropolitan Migrant Resources Centre, Multicultural Services Centre, and Orana Women's refuge.

Community Sessions

From October 2019 to December 2019 we ran 4 Community Education sessions, -though across two communities Congolese and Syrian. The reason for this was that the Community leaders and participants were very happy with the initial sessions and requested that we return and provide further training/workshops to other members of their community.

A total number of 95 women and 17 men were seen in these sessions. According to the Activity Plan we were required to deliver 3 Community sessions between Oct -December 2019.

From January 2020-March 2020 – we completed the following workshops:

- January 2020 - A Nepalese Community Training Workshop that saw 27 women attend. A Community Session was provided to International Students at Taylor's College that saw 32 women attend.
- February 2020 - A session for the Filipino Community was scheduled having been postponed from December 2019 but they again requested that this be postponed. Impact of COVID-19.
- March 2020 – A presentation was done about our Community training to over 250 members of the Naari Indian community.

2.5 Sector training

November 2019 - We had scheduled a Sector Training session for the SARC Counsellors on Cultural Appropriateness and Responsiveness. However, the planned session had to be modified due to an amendment in time allocated for the session by SARC on the day. We may provide a more detailed session in the future. A session on Cultural Appropriateness and Responsiveness to staff at Armadale Hospital also occurred in November 2019. We received positive feedback for both these sessions and a total of 33 Service providers attended these sessions.

February 2020 – A session was provided to Monash University on Interpreting in a Family and Domestic Violence situation and the importance of accuracy and cultural implications. 25 Service Providers attended this.

2.6 Impact of COVID-19

COVID-19 had a significant impact on this project as we were planning to do a number of Community and Sector Training sessions from February to June 2020 which had to be cancelled.

WORK WITH THE MEDIA



3.0 Work with Media

Several issues that we covered with regard to policy, advocacy and lobbying were reflected in our media releases. A list of media releases has been provided.

3.1 Media Involvement We issued the following Media releases:

Media Releases: (A sample are listed below and are available on our website) ·

- ECCWA Applauds Multicultural Policy Framework
- ECCWA commends the changes to AMEP.
- ECCWA sends wishes to the families affected by the Christchurch Killer
- ECCWA reminds us of Sorry Day
- ECCWA Commends Immigration Revamp Suggestions
- Don't Coloured Australian Lives Matter?
- Ethnic Communities Australian Bushfire Appeal Launched
- Council urges communities to take care and be prepared for cancellations of gatherings
- Council again calls for calm and caution in relation to Coronavirus
- Council expresses concern at rhetoric over Cupcakes
- Council warns Against Racist incidents
- Council expresses concerns about racist material found in parts of Perth.

3.2 Communications and Social Media

- ECCWA Bi- Monthly News was launched in June 2019 and continued to be issued highlighting the work of ECCWA and what was happening amongst our Community members. ECCWA is currently also issuing this information to non-members to encourage them to become part of a larger network.
- ECCWA -Quarterly Equity Newsletter due to Covid-19 was put on hold and only a Spring edition was issued in 2019-2020.
- ECCWA's new website was launched in late September 2019 and also a project website called Racism Matters was launched in June 2020.

3.3 Other Media Activity Letters to the Editor

A Sample below

- Ernie Dingo Matter
- Independent News: Collateral damage in the time of COVID-19
- Letter Regarding Coronavirus
- Response to Colin Coulthard letter



EVENTS

4.0 Multiculturalism, Harmony and Community Harmony program

Goal: Our objectives is to always ensure that the benefits of Multiculturalism and multicultural citizenship are achieved and CaLD and wider communities are provided with the information, skills and opportunities to promote Integration and Community Harmony. ECCWA sought to achieve the above by increasing awareness of and addressing issues relating to racism, discrimination and community harmony within ethnic and the wider communities

4.1 Community Consultative Forums.

ECCWA is committed to hosting a minimum of 3 Community Consultative Forums each financial year. In 2019-2020 two forums were held.

The First - Consultation on Disability issues, was for the State's Disability Plan. This forum was very successful with a considerable amount of information being provided and was a forum where members of the various Communities felt comfortable to provide their feedback openly. Difficulties faced such as the limitations of NDIS, the need for more supports and services particularly in language and culture specific media. The issues of mental health were raised by many groups and in particular trans-cultural mental health services were raised. The SDP is with the Minister and is expected to be launched soon.

The Second Community Consultative forum was held in November 2019 and involved a representative from the Department of Consumer Affairs providing the CaLD members with invaluable information on SCAMS, and the importance of dealing with licenced Motor Vehicle dealers and repairers.

The Third Consultation was meant to be on the needs of CaLD Seniors and looking at such issues such as Aged Care etc. This forum did not go ahead due to the impact of COVID-19.

4.2 ACRATH Function:

ECCWA staff attended a fund-raising function held by Australian Catholic Religious Against Human Trafficking (ACRATH) on 10.08.2019. ECCWA sponsored the event with a donation of \$200 worth of items for their auction/raffle. A Function was held at Aranmore College and they raised approx. \$7000.00 for the night. The event was successful and highlighted the issues of Human trafficking and Forced Marriages. Since this event, ECCWA has become involved in the State's Steering Committee and in partnership with ACRATH and the Women's Council for Family and Domestic Violence, applied for funding to bring to Australia an expert from the UK to educate Communities and the Service Sector. This plan and grant application however had to be shelved as result of COVID-19.

4.3 Sept 19-Australian LGBTIQ Multicultural Council Book Launch

The Australian LGBTIQ Multicultural Council's (AGMC) approached ECCWA to assist with the WA book launch of their anthology published by Wakefield Press **Living and Loving** in Diversity: An anthology of Australian queer adventures. This ground-breaking book is edited by international researcher Dr Maria Pallotta-Chiarolli and contains over sixty stories of lived experience by Australian multicultural and multifaith LGBTIQ people. It has been launched in NSW, Victoria, SA and nominated for a LAMDA Award in the US and features some known names such as Benjamin Law and Anton Enus.

For WA, it was an opportunity to join in a national discussion on the vast, but less visible, intersection of multiculturalism, faith and diverse sexuality and genders. A Facebook page is also available which documents this books amazing journey.

The AGMC's main partner The Centre for Human Rights Education at Curtin University provided the venue for the WA launch. Ramdas represented ECCWA at the event and his input was warmly received.



Black Lives Matter protest in Perth



**Meeting with Race Discrimination Commissioner
Chin Tan to discuss human rights and multiculturalism**

4.4 October 19- FECCA Conference in Tasmania

ECCWA participated in the bi-yearly FECCA Conference. This was a very educational event and allowed for a great deal of Networking. ECCWA's representatives had an opportunity to meet with their counterparts and to discuss key issues such as Problems with Citizenship applications, lack of appropriate collection of CaLD data, (this has been further highlighted by the recent pandemic) inappropriate FDV responses and Mental Health Issues for CaLD community members. This has since seen the launch of regular CEO's meetings weekly during the Pandemic and now monthly.

4.5 WA Police Commissioner's Morning Tea

Vivienne represented ECCWA at the Police Commissioner's morning Tea and it was a great opportunity to make further connections that could assist ECCWA with its advocacy work.

4.6 SENIORS WEEK- Multicultural Lunch

We held a very successful Multicultural lunch on 14.11.2019 for approximately 80 Seniors from many of our Community members. Suresh did the welcome speech and there were games, dance performances and music entertainment provided by staff and Board members. We received a lot of positive feedback and would like to acknowledge the support of City of Vincent for their donation of \$500, and COTA for the grant of \$1000. I would like to acknowledge Lloyd Rego – Policy and Events officer for his tremendous efforts in making this day a huge success.

4.7 Family and Domestic Violence Silent March November 2019

ECCWA participated in the Silent March in November and had a stall at the event promoting its role and the services offered by EAST. Sadly, 2019 saw a number of persons killed due to Family and Domestic Violence. ECCWA continues to be actively involved in the FDV Sector working with the Women's Council for FDV Services and other Peaks as we continue to advocate for changes in the FDV Service sector to acknowledge the need for a sector response that is not simply Crisis based but is one that recognises Cultural needs and the wish of many CaLD women and families to remain in their relationships with support to curtail the violence and abuse.

4.8 ASeTTS Leadership Program – January 2020

This is a program that is sponsored by City of Stirling and Vivienne represented ECCWA by being a Panelist talking about Women and Leadership and the importance of Education.

4.9 International Women's Day 2020

Every year, ECCWA organises events to coincide with the International Women's Day to highlight the problems, successes and achievements of women from culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) backgrounds.

For IWD 2020 this year, each ethnic association was strongly encouraged to organise an event in their own community and include as many women from diverse backgrounds as possible. Those who included the greatest number of women in their IWD event who did not belong to their own community would receive a certificate from the ECCWA. The topic was: An equal world is an enabled world. Individually, we're all responsible for our own thoughts and actions - all day, every day. We can actively choose to challenge stereotypes, fight bias, broaden perceptions, improve situations and celebrate women's achievements. Collectively, each one of us can help create a gender equal world. Let's all be #EachforEqual.

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 restrictions, ECCWA's scheduled event for the end of March was cancelled but some associations did organise IWD events. ECCWA will still present those associations their certificates during the IWD 2021 event. In previous years, ECCWA IWD events included discussions on issues, successes and achievements of the CaLD youth, women in employment, housing, racism, family and domestic violence, etc, as well as sharing a meal together and inviting CaLD groups to showcase their cultural music and dance.



Senior's Luncheon 2019

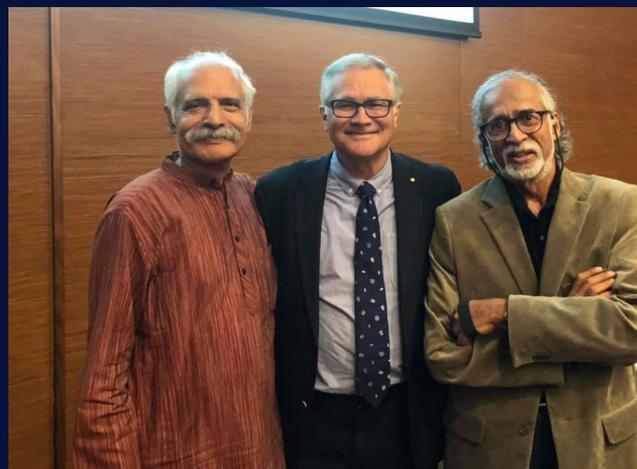
4.10 Special Event on 10 March 20 – Inaugural Laki Jayasuriya Oration

Keynote Speaker | The Honourable Geoff Gallop AC

Professor Geoff Gallop was a member of the Western Australian Legislative Assembly from 1986 to 2006 and the Premier of Western Australia from 2001 to 2006.

He was a Minister in the Lawrence Labor Government from 1990 to 1993 (holding a range of portfolios most notably Education, Fuel and Energy and Minister Assisting the Treasurer) and when that Government was defeated in 1993 he took up a range of Shadow Ministerial appointments. In 1994 he was elected Deputy Leader of the State Parliamentary Labor Party and in 1996 he was elected Leader.

As Premier, he oversaw a range of political and social reforms (electoral reform, gay and lesbian equality and a State Administrative Tribunal), upgraded the State's industrial and labour laws, brought a spirit of reconciliation to the resolution of Native Title and developed partnership models for the State's indigenous communities, changed the law to require all 16 and 17 year olds to be in education or training, was the first Premier to commit his government to a major desalination plant, stopped the logging of all of the State's Old Growth Forests creating record numbers of new national parks, restructured the State's electricity and racing industries, and started construction of the Perth to Mandurah Railway and City Tunnel.



The Inaugural Laki Jayasuriya Oration
Democracy, Human Rights and Multiculturalism: Can there be consensus?
 Tuesday 10 March 2020



As Minister for Science he established the Science Council, committed significant funding to Research and Development in the State, and established the Premier's Research Fellowship Program to attract leading researchers from overseas and interstate.

Geoff has been involved in a range of educational, community and sporting associations over many years and from 1983 to 1986 he was a Councillor at the City of Fremantle.

In 2001 he was awarded a Commonwealth of Australia Centenary Medal and was honoured with Life Membership of the Association for the Blind (Western Australia).

In 2003 he was elected a Fellow of the Institute of Public Administration Australia. In April 2006 he was admitted to the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters by Murdoch University and in March 2012 he was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters by the University of Western Australia.

In 2008 he was made a Companion of the Order of Australia.

Emeritus Professor Laksiri (Laki) Jayasuriya (1931-2018) was an intellectual, policy and campaigning pioneer. Having first arrived at The University of Sydney in the 1950s, he had an extraordinary career in academia, working at the interface of government and community organisations. As the first Asian professor at The University of Western Australia, he founded the UWA Department of Social Work and Social Policy, and made significant contributions to the development of social policy. Upon his appointment by Whitlam Government to the Immigration Advisory Council in 1973, he was amongst the key architects of Australia's Multicultural policy. A staunch supporter of positive engagement with Asia and the Indian Ocean region, Laki challenged historic assumptions about the country's European identity.

In honour of his life and rich legacy, the **UWA Public Policy Institute** invites you to attend the **inaugural Laki Jayasuriya Oration**, delivered by the **Honourable Geoff Gallop, AC** who will be speaking on democracy, human rights and multiculturalism.

The UWA Public Policy Institute is pleased to bring you this event in collaboration with the **Ethnic Communities Council of WA**, the **Multicultural Services Centre WA**, the **WA branch of the Australian Association of Social Workers** and the **UWA Department of Social Work and Social Policy** for the inaugural Jayasuriya Oration

4.11 From October 2019 – February 2020 various Community training sessions on FDV in partnership with Ishar – a total of 4.

A Celebration of ECCWA's 40th Anniversary has also been put on hold because of Covid-19 restriction

POLICY SUBMISSIONS

- Submission for the Senate into Migration and Citizenship.
- ECCWA response to draft WA Suicide Prevention Action Plan for 2021-2025
- ECCWA response to the Residential Tenancies Act (1987) Review
- Feedback to FECCA's Family Law Review Submission (Nov 2019)
- Submission for Senate Select Committee on Temporary Migration
- ECCWA/Ishar FDV Submission to the Senate Inquiry into Family and Domestic Violence. As an example, attached below is the submission ECCWA in partnership with ISHAR made to the Senate Inquiry into Family and Domestic Violence. The others can be found on our website.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL POLICY AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

Inquiry into family, domestic and sexual violence — Submission template

<p><i>This form is to assist individuals to prepare a submission to the inquiry.</i> <i>You may also indicate your interest in appearing at a public hearing.</i> <i>Please complete the relevant sections below. Submissions can be sent by email to family.violence.reps@aph.gov.au or by clicking on the 'Upload Submission' button on the inquiry website, at www.aph.gov.au/familyviolence. To ensure accuracy, please PRINT all information. Your contact details will not be published.</i></p>	
CONTACT DETAILS	
Title <input type="checkbox"/> Mr <input type="checkbox"/> Ms <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mrs <input type="checkbox"/> Dr <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):	
First name: Vivienne	
Last name: Pillay	
Phone number: Office: (08) 9227 5322 or Mobile: 0433 998 281	
Email address: vivienne@eccwa.org.au	
SUBMISSION Would you like your submission to be confidential? <i>Confidential submissions are only read by members of the Committee and the secretariat and are not published.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Would you like your submission to be classified as being "name withheld"? <i>Name withheld submissions are published on the Committee's website with all personal information redacted.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PUBLIC HEARING Please indicate whether you would like to appear as a witness at a public hearing <i>Please note that it is a Committee decision to determine who will be invited to appear as witnesses at a public hearing. Due to the expected size and scope of the number of people who are likely to want to give evidence, not all requests will be able to be met.</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Please indicate whether you have any safety concerns about appearing at a public hearing <i>The secretariat can make special arrangements for you to appear as a witness if you have safety concerns.</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Issues <i>Please indicate which issues from the terms of reference are relevant to your submission. Please note, it is not necessary to address all terms of reference in your submission.</i>		
a. Immediate and long-term measures to prevent violence against women and their children, and improve gender equality.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Best practice and lessons learnt from international experience, ranging from prevention to early intervention and response, that could be considered in an Australian context.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. The level and impact of coordination, accountability for, and access to services and policy responses across the Commonwealth, state and territory governments, local governments, non-government and community organisations, and business.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. The way that health, housing, access to services including legal services, and women's economic independence impact on the ability of women to escape domestic violence.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. All forms of violence against women, including, but not limited to, coercive control and technology-facilitated abuse.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. The adequacy of the qualitative and quantitative evidence base around the prevalence of domestic and family violence and how to overcome limitations in the collection of nationally consistent and timely qualitative and quantitative data including, but not limited to, court, police, hospitalisation and housing.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g. The efficacy of perpetrator intervention programs and support services for men to help them change their behaviour.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h. The experiences of all women, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, rural women, culturally and linguistically diverse women, LGBTQI women, women with a disability, and women on temporary visas.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i. The impact of natural disasters and other significant events such as COVID-19, including health requirements such as staying at home, on the prevalence of domestic violence and provision of support services.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
j. The views and experiences of frontline services, advocacy groups and others throughout this unprecedented time.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
k. An audit of previous parliamentary reviews <u>focussed</u> on domestic and family violence.		<input type="checkbox"/>
l. Any other related matters.		<input type="checkbox"/>

Your submission

Please provide a brief summary of your experience and any relevant issues. Your submission should respond to one or more of the terms of reference.

You may also wish to include any solutions, suggestions, or recommendations you have corresponding to the terms of reference.

Please note that content from this page onwards may be published.

INTRODUCTION

This is a joint submission from the Ethnic Communities Council of WA (ECCWA) and Ishar Multicultural Women's Health Services. This submission is based on feedback received from the following:

- ECCWA and Ishar management committees, staff, member organisations, communities and individual clients; and
- Other stakeholders that provide support services to women, men and children who are impacted by Family and Domestic Violence (FDV).

The Federal Government must acknowledge that many CaLD agencies in WA have been providing vital support to families experiencing FDV without adequate or dedicated funding and resources to do this. This includes agencies such as Ishar, Multicultural Women's Advocacy Service, Ethnic Advocacy Support Team (EAST), Multicultural Services Centre, Assets and the Metropolitan Migrant Resource Centre.

It is our strong belief that FDV within CaLD communities cannot be addressed with a "one size fits all" approach and it requires the consideration of the various social and economic determinants that result in people either being victims or perpetrators of FDV.

ECCWA BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE

The Ethnic Communities Council of Western Australia, established in 1975, has been providing advocacy services for multicultural groups and communities in Western Australia for over 44 years and is a member of the national Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia (FECCA).

ECCWA is the state's peak ethnic umbrella organisation and its objectives include *inter alia*:

- To act as the peak body for ethnic communities in Western Australia, that shall advocate for the rights of ethnic communities in ensuring the protection of these rights.
- To ensure the rights of the ethnic communities including effective participation in decisions which affect them, and encourage the sharing of community resources.
- To do and to perform all acts, matter and things as are charitable and for benevolent purposes having public benefit in accordance with the law of the State of Western Australia and the law of the Commonwealth of Australia and to disseminate any information within a Social Justice framework that achieves the objectives of the Council in ensuring equity and access to and for ethnic communities.

In fulfilling these objectives ECCWA has responded to many inquiries, consultations etc. organised by State and Commonwealth government agencies. ECCWA places a strong emphasis on Human Rights and would strongly argue that a Human Rights framework is essential for addressing FDV effectively.

ECCWA recently established in 2018 the Ethnic Advocacy and Support Team (EAST) which is a team of volunteer advocates (with over 30 years FDV experience between them) aiming to provide advocacy and support to CaLD persons facing challenging life events. While this service, was not set up to be a specific FDV service, since its commencement EAST has worked with a number of individuals and families impacted by FDV.

ECCWA (through EAST) and with Ishar established and currently coordinates the CaLD Advocacy Network which includes a number of agencies such as Ishar, EAST, The Association for Services to Torture and Trauma Survivors (Asetts), and the Multicultural Womens Advocacy Service. As a result of this mechanism, the ECCWA has developed sound expertise on what is happening with regards to FDV and service system responses within CaLD communities in WA.

ISHAR BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE

Ishar Multicultural Women's Health Services was officially opened on August 10th, 1992 and in 2020 celebrates 27 years of service. Ishar's Mission is *To provide inclusive, holistic and culturally sensitive services for women and their families promoting healthy communities.* Ishar operate with a philosophy grounded in the 'Social Model of Health' and have adopted a style of service that focuses on the healing of lifestyle related problems that detrimentally affect the health and well-being of women of all ages, particularly those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. In other words, the 'medical' condition of women seeking the services of the centre is not separated from the real-life interconnections of personal, social, cultural, economic, race, age and gender related problems.

Ishar Multicultural Women's Health Services provides a range of holistic services to women from all walks of life and cultural backgrounds. Ishar is a LGBTQI friendly service and welcomes women of any sexual orientation, anyone who identifies as a woman and anyone who was assigned female identity at birth. Women are provided with information, advice, counselling, training, support and advocacy so that they are empowered to deal with the problems themselves, or they are referred on to another agency for specialised assistance. We believe that women are the centre of the community, if the women are empowered this has a systemic effect on families and community. Ishar has provided vital services for over 1800 women per annum from over 100 ethnicities making over 50,000 service contacts each year.

Ishar provides a Specialist Family and Domestic Violence Service for CaLD women and their families and is the only CaLD controlled organisation in WA recognised to provide FDV support services to the CaLD community. Funding is received through various short term contracts and the organisation uses its own reserves to fund the shortfall, often at the cost of other programs. Ishar has 3 part-time advocates providing FDV advocacy.

KEY ISSUES

Cultural Sensitivity in Service Responses

For CaLD women, if they do not receive an appropriate service response when first asking for assistance for FDV, they will often return to the perpetrator and will not seek support again. This places them and their children at greater risk. Hence having appropriate support systems that are not simply based on Crisis response models and allow for responses that consider cultural nuances and have the support of CaLD communities is absolutely vital.

We believe that where CaLD women and families have access to culturally-informed and CaLD led service responses that are inclusive and provide an environment of "belonging" the more success there will be in keeping CaLD women and children safe. Many CaLD women are afraid of approaching mainstream services, as they are often set up within a very western culture and so many women do not feel safe, comfortable or welcomed there. This is not to say that culturally secure mainstream services are not adequate, but it is critical that CaLD women have a choice about whether to access a culturally secure mainstream service or a CaLD Community Controlled

Organisation for support. In WA there is only one funded Mainstream organisation controlled specialised CaLD FDV service in existence and this is inadequate to support the entire CaLD target population.

Existing CaLD organisations are often already being utilised by women for other services, which means accessing them for FDV support allows them to maintain their confidentiality and reduces risk of the Perpetrator from ascertaining this information. For women in some communities, if they were identified by others as accessing support for FDV, this could place them and/or their children at greater risk of harm. These agencies have a good understanding of CaLD specific issues such as Immigration Visa concerns and they understand the trauma some women may have been exposed to prior to entering Australia. Often, they have in-depth understanding of the Patriarchal cultural systems and the nature of community relationships and structures. They also understand the reasoning of many CaLD women to want the “violence to stop” but do not want to leave their partners and/or their community. They also have connections to communities that allow them to understand the likelihood of reactions such as of Honour Killings etc. Lastly, often CaLD women will seek information about support services before they reach a crisis situation and want a support service that can guide them to a better situation. They are more likely to seek this information from organisations, they trust and are already familiar with. It is these organisations that would then assist the woman if required to access and understand the service system including crisis supports.

Every organisation operating within the human services sector has a responsibility to ensure their staff are aware of all the issues that could be impacting a client experiencing FDV. It is our view that most mainstream agencies are not utilising the expertise of the CaLD sector and the people working on the ground in CaLD communities. There needs to be significant training and upskilling of staff within government agencies and mainstream service providers in the issues facing CaLD women experiencing FDV and how to work with CaLD women in an appropriate way. This is critical if we are to see better outcomes for CaLD women in this space and avoid poor decision-making placing CaLD women at greater risk.

The importance of CaLD Community Controlled Organisations in prevention strategies involving the education of communities, the mainstream FDV sector in Cultural Competence and the Multicultural sector in FDV needs to be recognised. In WA, this has been a major step forward (through funded training) in helping to implement effective prevention strategies that are socially acceptable to CaLD communities. This training recognises the needs of the relevant community that in turn will influence the effectiveness of service delivery and supports.

Client Case Study

We have been assisting a woman who has been physically abused by her husband, who is a drug dealer and she and her children are currently in a refuge. She is emotionally distraught and overwhelmed by the situation and has indicated she wants to return to her home to her husband. The Department of Child Protection (DCP) has opened a case on this family, so if she returns home with her children, there is a risk that DCP will remove the children for their safety. We approached a community leader to provide support to this woman and speak with her. The community leader said she was not able to do this, because in this particular community it is not socially acceptable for a woman to leave her husband and the community leader could not be seen as encouraging this woman to do that. If this client chooses to remain apart from her husband, she will likely lose the support of her wider community. This client is now in a very complex dilemma, where either option has severe negative outcomes. The mainstream FDV response structure in Australia, does not allow for complex cases like this and cannot respond appropriately to the needs of this woman and her family. With guidance from CaLD Peer Supporters, she could be assisted to rebuild her entire life and social support networks. CaLD specific agencies that understand the complexities of these social structures would have much greater success in supporting women in such circumstances.

CaLD Community Views and Perceptions

As mentioned earlier, CaLD specific agencies have a great deal of knowledge and expertise about the communities they are working with and are aware of the cultural and social issues women may be experiencing in addition to FDV. With all due respect, most mainstream organisations, even with the best intentions do not have a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the specific circumstances CaLD women are facing in Australia.

Fear of the ramifications from partners, community members, police and other authorities will prevent CaLD women from reporting FDV or seeking help from the police or other agencies. Some CaLD communities send a very strong message to women that leaving a husband or partner who is violent is not an acceptable solution. For example, one of our staff had to deal with a situation where an interpreter had twice not attended a client meeting to discuss an FDV situation, for fear that they would be perceived by other community leaders and members as encouraging the client to leave her husband. The interpreter was clearly concerned about the potential consequences of this perception and how they in turn would be treated by the community; this is a fairly common experience. In minority groups with limited interpreters this is a significant problem.

Many CaLD communities see FDV as a personal and private issue, one that should definitely not involve the Police, government authorities or external agencies. Some communities will actively discourage women from calling the Police for assistance, as they see Police orders as akin to getting divorced. In other countries, where some of these women have migrated from, the Police will send the women back to their husbands even if they are not safe there. Many newly arrived migrants in particular are afraid of involving the Police due to fears of authority and threats of deportation being made by the partner who is violent towards them. There is also a misunderstanding among many community members on the difference between reporting an incident, charges actually being made and perpetrators being jailed. There is a lot of misunderstanding about the role and powers of the Police in Australia and there needs to be more community education on these issues. The variance of attitudes towards Police amongst the various communities must be understood to effectively manage FDV and this is a major issue for mainstream services.

Many CaLD communities view FDV in a different way to mainstream communities in Australia. A clear example of this occurred at a recent community forum aiming to provide education and an opportunity to discuss FDV. The behaviour of "Stalking" was raised as an example of FDV, however there were many people (men and women) who saw this behaviour as a positive thing for their relationship. For some this was connected to showing jealousy which also was not always seen as a negative behaviour and often interpreted as a way to demonstrate love. In other words, some people expected their partner to show jealousy, some believed they were doing a good thing by being jealous and exhibiting stalking behaviour such as making numerous phone calls to someone during the day. It became very clear that there are many misinterpretations and misunderstandings of stalking behaviours, but this conversation provided the opportunity to put the focus on how such behaviours can make another person feel.

Many CaLD women experience a lack of access to a range of support services due to language barriers, leading to further difficulties. For example, we had a client we were assisting with their immigration papers and it became clear that she was also experiencing abuse within her relationship. In this case her original paperwork was found to be inadequate and if this had been sent to the Department, this would have been very detrimental to her case. Many CaLD women do not have a good understanding of the Immigration Visa requirements, cannot afford to go to a migration agent and do not have access to appropriate guidance with completing immigration paperwork. These circumstances can make the situation even more difficult for women experiencing FDV. This kind of situation occurs often, and there needs to be more support and assistance freely available to these women about a range of legal issues.

Client Case Study

Another case, involves a woman who was experiencing FDV who eventually left her husband. This woman then experienced further trauma from her wider community, as they no longer speak to her anymore or have any contact. In this cultural group, this woman is perceived to be the one in the wrong, for reporting her husband to the Police, for leaving him and she is seen as responsible for the consequences he has experienced. This woman has lost her entire support network and is required to completely rebuild her life. A CaLD agency assisting a woman in this situation is going to have more success than a mainstream agency, that has no understanding of these cultural issues.

Flexibility in Service System Responses

The existing structure of the FDV response and support system in Australia is very rigid and not client focused. Women and children impacted by FDV often require long term support and unlike many other social issues, support services are often necessary for lengthy periods (2 – 4 years) hence support services must be person-centred, with the flexibility to help people for as long as they need it. This is even more so for CaLD clients due to Immigration Visa issues that also mean often the woman has no income as her Visa Status may not allow her to access income support from Centrelink.

Many mainstream services put a limit on the number of counselling sessions a person can access, however a person experiencing FDV may need much more support than this over a long period of time. FDV situations are complex and support services need to be provided within a trauma-informed context and made available according to client needs. For example, a person may have left an abusive relationship years prior, however their trauma may be triggered by an advertisement, news story or a television program. If this occurs, support and counselling should be easily and readily accessible. Using Ishar as an example, women can access counselling services as many times as they require.

Support from government agencies and mainstream agencies is often provided to the community in silos according to a specific health or social issue. Mainstream agencies really struggle with providing a holistic service provision model with a focus on a range of issues impacting an individual or family. All FDV support services must be accessible and integrated in order to achieve the best possible outcomes. Unless all services genuinely collaborate, the provision of holistic, wrap-around support models that address the needs of families and not just individuals, will not eventuate. Often, we see the need for support for not only the women but also the children, and for the perpetrators of violence to help them change their behaviour. Many CaLD families have openly expressed that they wish to remain in the relationship, but they just need the violence to stop, however the existing mainstream service system response is geared towards supporting separation. The importance of keeping the family together, is very prevalent in CaLD communities particularly as many of these communities place a high importance on extended family systems.

We wish to emphasise a number of the barriers that people of CaLD backgrounds often face when trying to access FDV services such as low proficiency in English, lack of access to interpreters, inability to navigate a complex unfamiliar system, racism and discrimination etc. Greater involvement from CaLD agencies within the FDV support system would go a long way to addressing these barriers. We believe that enhancing victim safety would occur if the needs of the individual were at the centre of responses to FDV—supports should be tailored to the needs of the individual rather than a one-size-fits-all approach.

The role of Peak Organisations and their ability to use their networks and bring a diverse range of stakeholders together for a common purpose, needs to be recognised. Peaks are often not seen as service deliverers, however

the role that Peaks can play in complex issues like FDV needs to be recognised by government. For example, ECCWA was a key influencer in the Office of Multicultural Interests establishing a Committee of all the CaLD Sector CEOs, so the power of this kind of collaboration needs to be acknowledged.

Case Study: Ethnic Advocacy Support Team (EAST)

ECCWA recently established the Ethnic Advocacy Support Team (EAST) to assist people from CaLD backgrounds experiencing difficult circumstances and who need help with advocacy and system navigation. It was not originally established as an FDV-specialist service; however, this has become a key issue the Advocates are dealing with on a regular basis. Key characteristics and outcomes for EAST include the following:

- Culturally appropriate – not all the services are provided in an office-based environment, it's about where the clients are most comfortable
- Client focussed – based on the needs of the clients and the specific outcomes they want
- Started as a general CaLD advocacy service, but staff have over 30 years of FDV experience and networks in FDV
- No waiting list for services – waiting periods for free services are currently too long - clients are choosing to opt for the EAST fee-for-service model, rather than waiting for free services to become available
- Fees however are minimal and negotiable
- Work with women and men, depending on the nature of the service required by the client
- Receives referrals from the private and public hospitals, DV & Men's Helpline & other agencies
- Staff touch base and check-in with clients even after they stop receiving services from EAST
- Flexibility to respond to 'drop-in' clients e.g. a woman was anxious about legal issues she was facing, so the Advocate was able to assist her with these legal issues and allay her concerns
- Excellent outcomes from working with perpetrators – some have chosen to seek counselling and also chosen not to challenge the VROs their partner had taken out. One returned to his family after 8-10 weeks, and is currently seeing a family therapist. Another one was headed towards the family court, since EAST became involved and worked with him, he has accepted the situation and is trying to negotiate in the fairest possible way. He is listening to his partner's views and wants things to be fair for everyone, whereas previously he was very one-sided about the situation and was only listening to his lawyer's advice.
- Provides the opportunity for perpetrators to focus on their behaviour, shifting the focus away from the behaviour of the victim. When working with the family (only if safe), we have the ability to bring the attention back to perpetrator and the consequences of their behaviour. Once the perpetrator understands that he is accountable not only to his family, but to a wider society and accepts the ramifications for his behaviour, we get better outcomes.
- Utilises the networks of ECCWA as the Peak Body and seeks assistance from CaLD men to work with communities and individuals where appropriate. For example, there was a situation that could have resulted in community violence, however EAST was able to call on male community leaders to calm the situation down.
- Service could be enhanced by employing Male Peer Support Workers/Advocates - funding is required for this.

Responses within Hospital System

The hospital setting provides a key intervention point for addressing FDV, however the current responses are inadequate and mainstream hospital staff do not have the necessary cultural or FDV knowledge to assist appropriately. Hospital staff receive limited training on what an FDV victim may experience once they return home and they also receive very little training on the specific experiences of CaLD women.

CaLD women who are experiencing FDV, need to be offered services while they are in hospital including a visit by a Social Worker and linked-in to other appropriate agencies. Offering services once the person returns home, is too late, as they are under the scrutiny of the abusive partner and find it difficult to make phone calls or seek other assistance without their partner being aware. Referrals need to be made to CaLD-specific agencies who can provide culturally appropriate support and advice to the client.

Service responses within the hospital system could be vastly improved by partnerships with Specialist CaLD FDV support Services to assist CaLD clients and ensure that they receive accurate information on Immigration and Legal pathways and assisted to access services such as Legal Aid as soon as possible. This also would prevent the perpetrator from becoming aware of what support services and advice have been provided to their partner, ensuring their confidentiality and safety. We are aware that often, interpreters are not used or appropriately used, that risk assessments are done on a “tick and flick” basis with little understanding by the woman herself.

Client Case Study

We had a case where a woman had been non-fatally strangled by her partner, however the Assessor within the hospital categorised her as “low risk” despite what the evidence says around this. Sometimes, the person conducting the assessment does not have appropriate knowledge or training to be making such crucial judgements, that could cause the victim to be at greater risk.

Community Engagement and Education

Many people within CaLD communities do not understand the full extent of what FDV actually is according to current definitions. Most of the public education campaigns and materials are very mainstream and do not target specific CaLD communities where divergent views may be held. The CaLD sector is seeing a range of FDV and abuse relating to immigration, financial, social control, technology, smart phones, monitoring movements and social media accounts. It is thought that the community awareness and education campaigns that have focused on reducing physical violence, has had some impact on this and so now we are seeing the emergence of other forms of abuse and control.

We need to acknowledge that every CaLD community is different, they hold different attitudes, have had different experiences, social structures and are impacted by factors such as historical events, trauma and religion. How we engage with and educate these communities requires a nuanced and tailored approach. We need to educate all members of these communities if we want to see generational change in attitudes and behaviours including women, men, young people and community leaders. Many CaLD communities and families believe that FDV refers to physical violence only and so they do not realise that many other behaviours are also considered as FDV and abuse in Australia. Much more targeted education around the meaning of FDV in all of its forms is urgently required.

Government Departments are not currently framing information on FDV in an appropriate way to CaLD communities. It is critical for CaLD agencies to be involved in all aspects of engaging with and working with communities to address FDV effectively. CaLD agencies have built trust with their communities, understand their specific needs, who needs to be involved, what messages will work, appropriate avenues for seeking help and how to frame the delivery of information to the communities. Communities will not respond well to being lectured by mainstream agencies and individuals on how they should behave and conduct their lives. Government Departments need to be prepared to provide the appropriate funding and resources to CaLD agencies to develop and deliver this education to CaLD communities and their leaders. CaLD agencies and leaders want to see their communities thriving and living healthy, happy and safe lives so involving them in all aspects of this education is the most effective way to address FDV.

Case Study – WA CaLD FDV Training Project

Ishar as the lead agency with ECCWA, Multicultural Services Centre, Metropolitan Migrant Resource Centre and ORANA House Inc -a Woman’s refuge successfully obtained a grant from the WA Government in 2019-2020 to provide training to a number of CaLD communities on FDV and also to deliver cultural sensitivity training to mainstream FDV agencies across WA. We developed a comprehensive training package within three months and have delivered four community sessions so far. Almost 100 people from the Congolese, Syrian and Nepalese communities have participated in these workshops including community leaders. The response from these forums has been very positive, with a number of people feeling safe enough to seek help for their situations. We will continue to build trust with these community leaders to provide our support and facilitate further discussions with the communities on FDV. More communities would have received training except for the impact of COVID-19 this year. In addition,as part of this project, we will be delivering training to TAFE’s, as we are aware that FDV involving international students is extensive. Further training sessions with other communities are planned for later this year and will be continuing for a further three years.

Adequate Funding and Resourcing

Accessing adequate funding for the delivery of FDV services to CaLD communities is a major issue for the CaLD sector. Many agencies within the CaLD sector provide support and advice to their clients in relation to FDV on a regular basis, however most of these agencies do not have dedicated funding to do this. The funding system appears to be based on which organisation has the most expertise in preparing funding proposals and tender responses.

CaLD clients experiencing FDV, will be best served by agencies they already know and trust, therefore funding decisions should not only be based on what is included within a written document. Other factors need to be considered such as the reputation of the agencies on the ground, how those agencies are viewed by others in the sector, specific expertise in FDV and demographics of the target group. Solid references should be obtained, along with letters of support and proof that the agencies winning the grants and tenders are well respected by the Communities and work well with other agencies on the ground.

The way funding is provided for the delivery of FDV services needs to provide CaLD women with meaningful choices for where they seek support from. It should be noted that meaningful choice will not be available if the policy of mainstreaming is implemented widely and if place-based service provision ignores the demographic distribution of CaLD communities. We believe that procurement policies need to adopt a substantive equality philosophy to ensure that specialist CaLD agencies are considered preferred service providers for FDV services and are not forced to compete with mainstream providers on an unequal footing.

Data and Statistics on FDV in CaLD Communities

The CaLD sector in WA, has been led to believe (by government agencies) that the numbers of CaLD women affected by FDV are not sizable. Yet this is contrary to all the anecdotal information and evidence that the Refuges, Specialised CaLD FDV services and other CaLD Community Controlled Organisations have provided. The WA Government Homelessness Directions paper¹ notes that “Family and Domestic violence is the leading cause of people seeking assistance from specialist homelessness services in Western Australia. In 2017-18, 45% of people who accessed specialist homelessness services in Western Australia had experienced family and domestic violence.” ECCWA understands a significant proportion of women using the services of Refuges are from CaLD

¹ <https://www.communities.wa.gov.au/media/1746/homelessness-strategy-directions-paper.pdf>

backgrounds. We have been advised that the WA Police do not record the cultural ethnicity of victims and if this is the case then the question has to be raised as to how many of the 54,000 incidents reported in 2016/2017 included people of a CaLD background. This issue needs to be pursued as we believe that this data is critical in determining the different responses that are needed to the various multicultural communities in Australia.

We believe there are many sources of data not being included in current national data collection systems on the incidence and impact of FDV. For example, where a person is experiencing abuse or violence but does not need to be admitted to hospital, this data is not being collected in any way. Many CaLD agencies across Australia are funded to provide a range of other services in areas such as aged care, migration, health services, employment, emergency relief and homelessness for example. All of these organisations deal with FDV-related issues on a regular basis and details will often be included in regular activity reports to funding bodies. This is a source of rich data and could be collated across a range of government agencies and funding bodies from existing reporting mechanisms, however this not currently occurring.

Another issue impacting on the accuracy of data on FDV, is the definition and application of CaLD as a category. For an individual to be identified as CaLD is not just about their country of birth, it is about their cultural heritage, language and the culture in which they were raised. To ascertain a more accurate picture of FDV in CaLD communities and attitudes towards FDV, there needs to be a more accurate definition of ethnicity which considers a range of factors.

Access to Counselling and Mental Health Services

The lack of access to affordable counselling and mental health services is a major issue impacting the prevalence and consequences of FDV in CaLD communities. In WA we have one specialist CaLD service employing mental health advocates to cover the whole state, which is completely inadequate. CaLD communities need easy access to culturally appropriate support services including Advocates, Counsellors, Psychologists and Psychiatrists. If CaLD families are forced to access these support services through mainstream service systems, they are unlikely to seek help.

The current system of needing a GP Referral to access free counselling sessions through Medicare needs further review. A person should not need to have a chronic or long-term mental health condition to access free counselling through this system. There needs to be different categories and circumstances which allow people to access free counselling through Medicare, such as experiencing an FDV situation. This also highlights the issue that many GPs do not seem to have a good understanding of FDV and the impacts this can have on the mental health and wellbeing of victims. More education of GPs and other Primary Health Care providers is urgently needed in the area of FDV generally and specifically how it impacts CaLD communities.

The specific mental health needs of CaLD communities, needs much greater attention and resourcing if the Government is serious about preventing FDV. For example, the proportion of mental health funding specifically for CaLD communities in response to the COVID-19 crisis has been completely inadequate.

Elder Abuse

In CaLD communities, as with mainstream society there is a diversity of knowledge and understanding of the term Elder Abuse. For example, most would agree that physical violence is Elder Abuse, however the same person may not believe that forcing unrealistic and unreasonable expectations on their older relatives could also be viewed as abuse. Targeted education and awareness raising is needed for CaLD communities and leaders about what Elder Abuse is, what the warning signs are and how to prevent it.

There are also situations where Elder Abuse could occur unintentionally, for example due to a lack of knowledge within the family on issues around palliative care or other medical treatment. With the recent passing of the Voluntary Assisted Dying Legislation in WA, education for families on all the options available to them is critical. Families making pressured or uninformed decisions about health and medical treatment of their elderly relatives may also be seen as Elder Abuse.

There are also cultural nuances that need to be considered when dealing with issues around Elder Abuse, it is not as simple as dealing with the older person as though they exist "in a vacuum". It needs to be acknowledged that the older person is part of an extended family and community network and removing them from an abusive situation is extremely complex. Family-based approaches, rather than individual approaches would be much more effective when working with CaLD families to address issues around Elder Abuse.

Perpetrator Services and Programs

We fully support developing and implementing behaviour change interventions for men, that legal systems be fair and just and that service delivery is collaborative and organised around the shared principle of safety first. We believe, however that how these interventions should be developed with the communities involved. Current approaches to have legally mandatory participation has not been successful for CaLD men and we believe that getting the involvement of community leaders to not only participate in the education of what is FDV is important but that we need to engage them in taking a leadership role in ensuring that behaviours change for identified perpetrators. These leaders must become part of the "web of accountability". If this occurs, we will be able to see communities take leadership in reducing FDV. This means getting community leaders to stand up and be counted, appropriate training offered to them and then supported to be ambassadors against FDV. Community leaders in CaLD communities are often men and we need all government agencies to see the value in funding a CaLD controlled agency to lead this training initiative. Ethnic Community Council's across Australia could play a role in providing this training to Community leaders.

We support the need for perpetrators to be held accountable for and supported to change their behaviour. We however, see a need for an individual based response rather than a one-size-fits-all approach. From our understanding and observations, many CaLD Men are often reluctant to participate in group-based programs due to feelings of shame and not wanting to admit they wrong in front of other men. Programs that work with individuals in a one-on-one confidential model may be more effective and will result in greater participation.

There is a need for a greater range of Perpetrator-focused counselling and support programs focused on attitude and behaviour change. There are currently very few Perpetrator-focused services available and the ones that do exist have long waiting lists. There needs to be more evidence-informed prevention programs available for other agencies to make referrals to. It is essential that any new programs or models aimed at Perpetrators changing their behaviours needs to be formally evaluated and this needs to be adequately resourced by the relevant funding bodies.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND SOLUTIONS

1. Development of any FDV strategies must be done within a Human Rights Framework.
2. Inclusion of specific goals and outcomes for CaLD communities to be incorporated into any new FDV strategies.

3. Adequate funding of CaLD-specific agencies to provide culturally appropriate support to CaLD women and their families experiencing FDV.
4. Greater collaboration across different agencies to ensure holistic service provision and support to CaLD women and their families experiencing FDV.
5. Increased training of mainstream agencies (government and NGOs) working in the FDV sector on issues facing CaLD communities.
6. Targeted training of GPs and other Primary Health providers on FDV and working with CaLD communities.
7. Targeted awareness raising and education on FDV tailored towards CaLD communities and their leaders.
8. Targeted awareness raising and education to CaLD communities on Elder Abuse, warning signs and how to prevent it.
9. Improved access to culturally appropriate Mental Health, Counselling Services and Advocacy services for CaLD communities.
10. Adequate funding for legal services on a range of issues impacting CaLD women and their families.
11. Adequate funding for evidence-informed Perpetrator Interventions and Prevention Programs targeted at CaLD communities.
12. Increased flexibility in FDV service responses for CaLD women to ensure services are client focussed and aimed at achieving client identified outcomes. For example, mainstream agencies could allocate funding to receive support and advice from CaLD agencies and workers.
13. Funding allocation to FDV support services to be based on wider criteria than the quality of written submissions and take into consideration the reputation of organisations on the ground and support by the Communities.
14. Full involvement of CaLD agencies, communities and leaders in the development of any FDV prevention or support programs which are targeted towards CaLD communities.

CONCLUSION

It is our view that Government Departments must work in collaboration to gather the information being provided across Departments to ensure that the next national FDV strategy developed is holistic, responsive and incorporates a substantive equality framework to address the social issues underlying the occurrence of FDV. In light of this we believe it is critical that the Department recognise the unique factors that impact on FDV in the CaLD communities and the integral role that CaLD Community Controlled Organisations have in reducing FDV. Hence the urgent need for adequate resourcing of CaLD specific organisations to provide vital FDV-related support is essential.

We would like to emphasise from the perspectives of ensuring right solutions are delivered in the right places and that people are provided with appropriate and timely assistance regardless of where they seek assistance the FDV

system, mainstream services have to be complemented by services provided by Indigenous and CaLD controlled agencies.

CaLD Western Australians are entitled to government funded services that are culturally and linguistically appropriate to their needs and this will not eventuate unless the next national strategy on Family and Domestic Violence reflects the views and recommendations contained in this report.

For further information about this proposal please contact Vivienne Pillay, Executive Officer ECCWA (vivienne@eccwa.org.au) or Andrea Creado -CEO for Ishar Multicultural Women's Health Services. (andrea@ishar.org.au).

TENDER SUBMISSIONS

1.ECC Core funding and other Grants

1.1 ECC Core funding - \$120,000 from OMI was received for the Financial year 2019-2020.

1.2 We were successful in negotiations with Curtin University for \$30,000 for 2019-2021 to partner in a Research Project for: **Improving health outcomes and service delivery for Australian culturally and linguistically diverse overseas born people in relation to STIs and BBVs**

The above is a national research project being undertaken by Curtin University and ECCWA as project partners and with other partner organisations in the other states (e.g. Centre for Ethnicity and Health and Relationships Australia SA).

1.3 We were successful as part of a Consortium with ISHAR, MMRC, MSC and Orana Women's Refuge Inc. for DCS \$200,000pa FDV capacity building grant. This Consortium led by Ishar will see a minimum of \$25,000 p.a. for 4 years commencing from 2019-2020 being allocated to ECCWA for its contribution to the FDV work.

1.4 DSS Volunteer Grants - We were successful in receiving \$5000 for 2019-2020.

1.5 WACOSS PEAKS CAPACITY BUILDING Grants: We were successful in obtaining \$22,980 for 6 months from June 2020 till December 2020 to create a programme addressing RACISM in WA through a website known as RacismMatters and by providing Advocacy and Education Programmes that assist to help Maintain Cohesion in WA.

1.6 COTA Senior's Week Grant for \$1000.00 for a Multicultural Luncheon

1.7 Continued funding for the **Ethnic Advocacy Support Team** for \$25000 from OMI for July 2019-December 2020.

2.Other Tender Submissions and Outcomes

Unsuccessful tender and grant applications

2.1 Fostering Integration Grant (\$50,000) through Department of Home Affairs -was unsuccessful due to impacts of COVID-19

2.2 We were unsuccessful for the Aurizon grant for \$20,000 for creating a Multicultural Musical Programme to assist with Mental Health.

2.3 We were unsuccessful in the Police Grant application for \$25,000 to create Multicultural Ambassadors (Men) in Communities to work with Specialist CaLD FDV Services.

2.4 Men as Role Models for Preventing Violence against Women and their Children through DSS.

We are continuing to look at all funding opportunities through Government agencies, Philanthropic Organisations etc

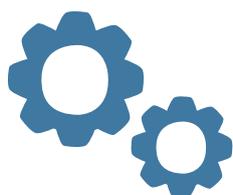
STAFF, VOLUNTEERS & STUDENTS

ECCWA currently employs part-timers the equivalent of 1.3 FTE and has other projects that fund key positions that value add to the organisation. All 8 staff in ECCWA are part-time and are passionate and committed to the organisation and its vision and objectives.

ECCWA supports its staff through the use of Volunteers and students. In 2019-2020 ECCWA had a number of volunteers providing support to the organisation in various capacities. This was essential to help us to be able to keep in constant contact with our Community members during the very difficult period of the pandemic and its aftermath. We however actively recruited and trained 3 volunteers to assist in the Ethnic Advocacy Support Team and to provide Admin support particularly in the area of Tenders and Communications in the latter half of 2019-2020 and they will commence in the new financial year of 2020-2021.

ECCWA also actively supports Student placements and has had a number from the McCusker Centre for Citizenship at UWA. We have also had student placements from the North Metropolitan TAFE and have also been approached by Curtin University to partner with them. We look at these opportunities as ways to help educate the students but also as an opportunity for us to learn from their very vast talents. These students consistently add value and make a difference in our communities.

ECCWA will also be looking to have more volunteers involved with its services in 2020-2021 as this is an invaluable resource and often these volunteers come with incredible experience and knowledge that adds value to the Services we provide.



TREASURER'S REPORT



I am pleased to present the financial report for 2019- 2020. The financial report for 2019-2020 includes:

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

- Depreciation Schedule
- Statement of Changes in Equity
- Statement of Income and Expenditure
- Summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes

Financial Health

We ended the year as we have in recent years with an operational surplus, somewhat larger though than previous years thanks to the efforts and dedication of staff and volunteers.

In 2019-2020 ECCWA received \$120,000 funding from the Office of Multicultural Interests and also were successful in obtaining funding from various grants allowing us to employ additional part-time paid staff who, together with our volunteers, has made it a very successful year.

ECCWA's financial situation will hopefully continue to improve with us being advised by Minister Papalia that he has approved \$60,000 for the first six months of 2020-2021. We are awaiting further advice re the second six months which is currently subject to the State Budget announced in October 2020. Once, confirmation is received of further funding, plans to provide staff with increased hours and further recruitment will occur.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the office bearers' who have had to shoulder the responsibilities of the ECCWA in a voluntary capacity for so many years and to recognise the efforts of our diligent and dedicated staff.

Acknowledgements

I wish to thank our Accountants Eventum Accounting and Ms. VickyKrishnamurthy from Glide Accounting who undertook with due diligence, the Review of this year's financial statements in accordance with relevant provisions of the Associations Incorporation Act 2015.

I also wish to thank our Executive Officer Mrs Vivienne Pillay and President Mr Suresh Rajan for their input into the review of the financial statements. Finally, I would like to thank the members of the management committee for their valuable contribution in monitoring the Council's finances.

Rahim Ghauri

Treasurer



GLIDE ACCOUNTING

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

vicky@glideaccounting.com.au @

<https://www.glideaccounting.com.au> 🌐

0433 327 344 📞

24 October 2020

Reviewers Independence Declaration

Re: Ethnic Communities Council of WA Inc

As the reviewer of the financial report for Ethnic Communities Council of WA Inc for the financial year ending 30 June 2020, I declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been no contraventions of:

- a) Reviewer independence requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 2015 in relation to the review; and
- b) any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the review.

Vicky Krishnamurthy

Vicky Krishnamurthy CA
24 October 2020





GLIDE ACCOUNTING

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

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0433 327 344 📞

24 October 2020

Certificate of Review

Re: Ethnic Communities Council of WA Inc

I, Vicky Krishnamurthy, of Glide Accounting, have reviewed the financial statements for Ethnic Communities Council of WA Inc (ECCWA) for the financial year ending 30 June 2020 and am satisfied that there are no matters that has led me to believe that ECCWA does not satisfy all the requirements of Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012.

ECCWA has given me access to the hard copy and soft copy of all accounting information and the relevant supporting documents and were able to assist me with all queries to be able to complete this review.

Vicky Krishnamurthy

Vicky Krishnamurthy CA
24 October 2020



FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020



Not-For-Profit - Association Report

Ethnic Communities Council of WA inc
ABN 91 163 351 869
For the year ended 30 June 2020

Prepared by Eventum Group Unit Trust



Committee's Report

Ethnic Communities Council of WA inc For the year ended 30 June 2020

Committee's Report

Your committee members submit the financial report of Ethnic Communities Council of WA inc for the financial year ended 30 June 2020.

Committee Members

The names of committee members throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

Office Bearers	Position
Suresh Rajan	President
Rahim Ghauri	Senior Vice President/ Treasurer
Mamta Kochar	Vice President (Women's Interests)
Seren Ulusoy	Vice President (Youth Issues)

Management Committee Members

Alphonse Mulumba

Hadi Assanteh

Elizabeth Lang

Satish Nair

Virginia Aden

Carmelita Baltazar

Ranjit Ratnayke

Paul Kyaw

Dr Seyed Hassan Fallahzadeh

Gaëlle Gouilou

Michael Wu

Principal Activities

ECCWA Vision

A fair and just society, one in which all people are encouraged to participate fully in the life of the community and are supported to reach their full potential, where diversity is valued and people live in harmony.

ECCWA Mission



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- 5 Income and Expenditure Statement
- 7 Assets and Liabilities Statement
- 8 Notes to the Financial Statements
- 11 Depreciation Schedule
- 12 Movements in Equity
- 13 Certificate By Members of the Committee
- 14 Compilation Report

To work with member organisations, the community, government and non- government stakeholders to ensure:

- Ethnic community participation and consultation in decision making at all levels
- Just and harmonious relations within our multicultural community
- A consultative, advisory and training service to government and non government organizations
- Provision of research and policy
- Access to all information and equitable share of government and community resources

Policy and Advocacy

ECC's advocacy, policy and information program has the following objectives:

- Ensure that ECC's policy positions contribute to Government policy making
- Promote and safeguard the interests of CALD communities in WA.
- Facilitate dissemination of state government information to ethnic communities.

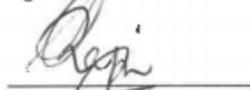
Citizenship and Community Relations

- Enhance culturally and linguistically diverse community awareness and understanding of citizenship and promote their participation in citizenship related activities.
- Promote harmonious relations between ethnic communities as well as between ethnic communities and the wider community.

Going Concern

This financial report has been prepared on a going concern basis which contemplates continuity of normal business activities and the realisation of assets and settlement of liabilities in the ordinary course of business. The ability of the association to continue to operate as a going concern is dependent upon the ability of the association to generate sufficient cashflows from operations to meet its liabilities. The members of the association believe that the going concern assumption is appropriate.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee on:



Mr Suresh Rajan (President)

Date 7 / 10 / 20



Mr Rahim Ghauri (Treasurer)

Date 7 / 10 / 20

Income and Expenditure Statement

Ethnic Communities Council of WA inc For the year ended 30 June 2020

	2020	2019
Income		
Donation (Others)	455	-
East Income - client fees	1,055	1,424
ECC Member Subscriptions/Fee	1,400	927
FECCA	2,236	-
Fundraising East	360	-
Fundraising ECCWA	-	810
Grant monies to ECCWA	165,091	93,909
Hire of EEC Facilities	3,165	9,077
Interest Income	359	431
Sundry	597	-
ATO Income		
ATO Cash Stimulus Boost	16,403	-
JobKeeper Income Received	24,000	-
Total ATO Income	40,403	-
Fundraising		
Project Income	58,973	-
Total Fundraising	58,973	-
Total Income	274,094	106,579
Expenditure		
AGM/MC/EC Meetings/Functions	2,196	493
Bank Fees	66	37
Computer Expenses	11,363	2,202
Conference & Other Sponsorship	518	-
Consulting & Accounting	2,036	745
Depreciation	784	784
Membership Fees	136	-
EAST - Client emergency expense	205	716
East Operating EX.	273	363
FECCA Meeting Exp.	5,358	-
Fundraising Expenses	-	600
General Expenses	835	5,567
Insurance	4,284	2,397
Maintenance Furn/Equip	822	-
Motor Vehicles	2,915	1,172
Office Cleaning	-	903
Office Expenses	5,366	51
Postage	9	-

	2020	2019
Printing & Stationery	510	348
Rates & Taxes	782	1,708
Subscriptions	1,888	650
Superannuation	12,280	3,374
Telephone & Internet	3,007	2,097
Travel and Accommodation	63	-
Volunteer Grant - Expenses	-	2,045
Wages and Salaries	144,736	35,654
Trainings	2,230	-
Total Expenditure	202,663	61,906
Current Year Surplus/ (Deficit) Before Income Tax Adjustments	71,430	44,672
Current Year Surplus/(Deficit) Before Income Tax	71,430	44,672
Net Current Year Surplus After Income Tax	71,430	44,672

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

Assets and Liabilities Statement

Ethnic Communities Council of WA inc

As at 30 June 2020

	NOTES	30 JUN 2020	30 JUN 2019
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents		150,597	123,705
Trade and Other Receivables		(22,980)	(32,091)
GST Receivable		-	1,002
Total Current Assets		127,617	92,617
Non-Current Assets			
Land and Buildings		9,699	10,483
Other Non-Current Assets		36,623	-
Total Non-Current Assets		46,322	10,483
Total Assets		173,939	103,100
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables	4	6,411	9,865
GST Payable		3,714	-
Employee Entitlements	5	-	851
Total Current Liabilities		10,125	10,715
Other Current Liabilities			
Rounding		-	-
Total Other Current Liabilities		-	-
Total Liabilities		10,124	10,715
Net Assets		163,815	92,384
Member's Funds			
Capital Reserve		163,815	92,384
Total Member's Funds		163,815	92,384

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Ethnic Communities Council of WA inc For the year ended 30 June 2020

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The financial statements are special purpose financial statements prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act WA. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historic costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where stated specifically, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless stated otherwise, have been adopted in the preparation of these financial statements.

Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)

Leasehold improvements and office equipment are carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

The depreciable amount of all PPE is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

Leasehold improvements are amortised over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements.

Employee Provisions

Provision is made for the association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee provisions have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

Cash on Hand

Cash on hand includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

Revenue and Other Income

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable after taking into account any trade discounts and volume rebates allowed. For this purpose, deferred consideration is not discounted to present values when recognising revenue.

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument. Dividend revenue is recognised when the right to receive a dividend has been established.

Grant and donation income is recognised when the entity obtains control over the funds, which is generally at the time of receipt.

Source documentation for the receipt of the grants was asked for but was unavailable at the time of this report

If conditions are attached to the grant that must be satisfied before the association is eligible to receive the contribution, recognition of the grant as revenue will be deferred until those conditions are satisfied.

These notes should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the assets and liabilities statement.

Financial Assets

Investments in financial assets are initially recognised at cost, which includes transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value, which is equivalent to their market bid price at the end of the reporting period. Movements in fair value are recognised through an equity reserve.

Accounts Payable and Other Payables

Accounts payable and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the association during the reporting period that remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

	2020	2019
2. Cash on Hand		
Bendigo 156354797	150,162	123,135
East Operating Petty Cash	335	470
Petty Cash	100	100
Total Cash on Hand	150,597	123,705
	2020	2019

3. Land and Buildings

Buildings		
Buildings at Cost	26,149	26,149
Accumulated Depreciation of Buildings	(16,450)	(15,666)
Total Buildings	9,699	10,483
Total Land and Buildings	9,699	10,483
	2020	2019

4. Trade and Other Payables

Trade Payables		
Accounts Payable	-	6,551
Total Trade Payables	-	6,551
Other Payables		

These notes should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

PAYG Withholdings Payable	6,411	3,314
Total Other Payables	6,411	3,314
Total Trade and Other Payables	6,411	9,865
	2020	2019

5. Employee Entitlements

Superannuation Payable	-	851
Total Employee Entitlements	-	851

These notes should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.



Depreciation Schedule

Ethnic Communities Council of WA inc
For the year ended 30 June 2020

NAME	COST	OPENING VALUE	PURCHASES	DISPOSALS	DEPRECIATION	CLOSING VALUE
ECC building at Cost						
ECC building	26,149	10,483	-	-	784	9,699
Total ECC building at Cost	26,149	10,483	-	-	784	9,699
Total	26,149	10,483	-	-	784	9,699

Movements in Equity

Ethnic Communities Council of WA inc For the year ended 30 June 2020

	2020	2019
Equity		
Opening Balance	92,384	47,712
Increases		
Profit for the Period	71,430	44,672
Total Increases	71,430	44,672
Total Equity	163,815	92,384



Certificate By Members of the Committee

**Ethnic Communities Council of WA inc
For the year ended 30 June 2020**

I, _____ of 20 View St, NORTH PERTH, WA, Australia 6006 certify that:

1. I attended the annual general meeting of the association held on [/ /].
2. The financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2020 were submitted to the members of the association at its annual general meeting.

Dated: / /

Compilation Report

Ethnic Communities Council of WA inc For the year ended 30 June 2020

Compilation report to Ethnic Communities Council of WA inc.

We have compiled the accompanying special purpose financial statements of Ethnic Communities Council of WA inc, which comprise the asset and liabilities statement as at 30 June 2020, income and expenditure statement, the statement of cash flows, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes. The specific purpose for which the special purpose financial statements have been prepared is set out in Note 1.

The Responsibility of the Committee Member's

The committee of Ethnic Communities Council of WA inc are solely responsible for the information contained in the special purpose financial statements, the reliability, accuracy and completeness of the information and for the determination that the basis of accounting used is appropriate to meet their needs and for the purpose that financial statements were prepared.

Our Responsibility

On the basis of information provided by the partners we have compiled the accompanying special purpose financial statements in accordance with the basis of accounting as described in Note 1 to the financial statements and APES 315 *Compilation of Financial Information*.

We have applied our expertise in accounting and financial reporting to compile these financial statements in accordance with the basis of accounting described in Note 1 to the financial statements. We have complied with the relevant ethical requirements of APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants*.

Eventum Consulting

3 Colombo Street

VICTORIA PARK WA 6100

Dated: 6th October 2020