

ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCIL WA

NEWS

AUGUST EDITION





August 2019



Letter from the CEO

These past two months have been very busy for the ECCWA with us being involved in several forums and meetings on Women's issues in particular Family and Domestic Violence and also on Procurement and its impact on service delivery, and effects on the CaLD community.

ECCWA is very aware that we need to advocate strongly for those in our community who do not have a voice to ensure that those experiencing Homelessness, Family and Domestic Violence, Trauma, Mental health and Disabilities (just to name some social issues) are represented and their needs provided for. Hence, submissions to Government on Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, and to the Senate Inquiry into the Migration Amendment (Strengthening Character Test) Bill 2019 were made. In addition we have done a number of media releases such as Don't Colour Australian Lives Matter Anymore? and the most recent to honour a person who has done much for the multicultural community and the ECCWA

Mr Vale Russell Cuthbert Raymond OAM, who recently passed away, was loved and in the words of our President Mr Ramdas Sankaran: "It is with a great deal of sadness that the Ethnic Communities Council of WA (ECCWA) acknowledges the passing of Mr Russell Raymond yesterday.

"The Ethnic Communities Council of WA (ECCWA) and many of its member organisations are today mourning the loss of Mr Russell Raymond, who has made an incredible contribution not just to ECCWA, but on a state and national level to many organisations within the multicultural, aged and community services sectors", said Council President Ramdas Sankaran.

"In January 1994, Russell was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for services to the North Perth Migrant Resource Centre (which became the Multicultural Services Centre of WA) and to the Media. Whilst his contribution to the Multicultural Services Centre of WA was impressive (Board member since its inception and his period as Chairman far exceed that of all others), what is yet to be formally recognised is his immense contribution to ECCWA". Russell's journalism career included being sub editor at the West Australian and the Editor of The Countryman."

"In the late 90s under Russell's Presidency, ECCWA had annual turnovers of over 5 million and full time senior policy positions focusing on issues relating to women, youth and family. It was during that period that the Ethnic Disability Advocacy Centre was established under ECCWA's auspices. So it is hardly surprising that we fondly refer to this period as the Golden era of ECCWA. He also served as the Administrator of ECCWA in a voluntary capacity for many years," he added. - (Excerpt from the Media Release on 26.08.2019)

It is our great hope that, with the support of our members and a commitment to ensuring that we work together for the benefit of our multicultural community, we can continue to honour the efforts and achievements of Mr Raymond.

I am pleased to see the various articles of events and training held or to be held by various community members and encourage you to forward information and articles to us for publication in our next edition.

Yours Sincerely,

Vivienne Pillay

News bulletin

- ECCWA's Press release on disability migration
- Palliative Care survey and summit
Please visit the link below to fill out the survey:
<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/wa-palliative-care-summit-2019-tickets-62699976317>
- Book Launch initiates WA's first ever LGBTQI, Multicultural and Faith Dialogue
- Youth week WA Grants Program is now open
Applications close 26 Sep 2019.
<https://dlgc.communities.wa.gov.au/GrantsFunding/Pages/All-grants-programs.aspx>
- Harmony Alliance: Migrant and Refugee for women's media release
- ACRATH Bollywood Night Fundraiser
- The Health Consumer's Council Survey

NEWS BULLETIN: disclaimer statement

Dear Members,

ECCWA makes no warranty for the accuracy of any non-ECCWA material distributed via this communication. All questions should be directed to the organisations from which the material originated.

ECCWA News Bulletin Items are drawn from a diverse range of sources, not least of which are materials from our stakeholder organisations, for the interest of all our readers. We publish the content as it is sent. Apart from items that are sourced from ECCWA and FECCA, material included not necessarily reflect the views of the ECCWA, nor should its inclusion be seen necessarily to constitute an endorsement. We welcome your input for our monthly round-up of news and information



Important News:

ECCWA Press Release on Disability Migration

ECCWA commends Prime Minister on Changes on 'Disability' related costs calculation

The Ethnic Communities Council of Western Australia (ECCWA) today congratulated the Morrison government for changing the rules that apply to the calculation of the cost to the taxpayer of having people with medical conditions and disabilities being granted permanent residency in Australia.

"The Migration Act has always discriminated against these people by applying a "burden to the taxpayer" argument to disallow any claims for residency. In doing so previous governments and the current one has ensures that the Migration Act is exempt from the provisions of the Federal Disability Discrimination Act and International Conventions that Australia has ratified", said Ramdas Sankaran, ECCWA President.

"For years our Council has argued that these provisions utilised by the government have discriminated against those families of people wanting to migrate to Australia. The threshold used by the government has been woefully low and had been set at \$40,000. This figure was then calculated by assessing the cost on annual basis and then extrapolated for the life expectancy of the family member with the medical condition/disability."

"So if there was a child in the family applying for residency, that child's education costs alone would well and truly exceed the threshold set by government" said Mr. Sankaran.

"Our Council and in particular our media spokesperson and Secretary, Suresh Rajan, has been extremely vocal in his criticism of government policy in this area. The Council and he have advocated for a number of families in this area and have been successful in getting the Minister to intervene in the past to overturn some decisions", he added.

"Under the changes put in place by the government, the threshold will be increased to \$49,000. In addition the calculation will now be done either over the lesser of the life expectancy of the person or ten years."

"The changes also mean that the government's disability support pension - which was previously counted in the cost calculations - will not be considered, as migrants are not eligible for the payment until they have been in the country for more than ten years."

"Whilst there are still aspects of the change that are of concern to us, we applaud this as a good starting point for the government to implement other amendments which will ensure that our Migration Act does not continue to breach the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Disabled Persons or Australia's Disability Discrimination Act. We will continue to vigorously advocate for this to happen over the foreseeable future", added Mr Sankaran.

"This was an unexpected but very welcome starting point for long overdue reform of the Migration Act. We thank the government for this start and we look forward to working with it to ensure that our legislation is brought in line with human rights thinking around the world," Mr. Sankaran.

For media enquiries please contact Ramdas Sankaran on 0418275786 or Suresh Rajan on 0403276960

Book Launch Initiates WA's First Ever LGBTIQ+, Multicultural and Faith Community Dialogue

The launch of *Living and Loving in Diversity: An anthology of multicultural queer adventures* by The Australian GLBTIQ Multicultural Council (AGMC) on Friday 6 September at North Perth Town Hall puts WA at the centre of a national discussion on how the stories we tell influence everything from who we love to the make-up of our Parliaments and boardrooms.

The free event includes a panel discussion with local community LGBTIQ+, faith and multicultural figures, Dr Pallotta Chiarolli and book contributors.

AGMC will also launch a Statement of Hope banner that emerged from WA organisations to support multicultural LGBTIQ+ people in WA. Light refreshments will be available. The book can also be purchased from Rabble Books on the night. Eventbrite bookings are essential.

As a founding member of the AGMC since 2004, chief book editor Dr Maria Pallott Chiarolli has pioneered research to help communities and governments understand that culture, gender, sexuality and family diversity is anything but a minority phenomenon.

Pallotta Chiarolli says, "We are forgetting how to listen to different voices. Different ways of loving each other have always been with us, but parts of social media are trying to rewrite our national story from voices of hope to voices of division. So we are also a nation of shadows. AGMC believe the positive reception to this anthology is shining a light on those shadows".

Pallotta Chiarolli's research has found that people who are excluded by society often have the most insightful lessons to share with us about resilience.

"We just need to take time off occasionally and listen to other others stories. Those quiet Australians our politicians talk about, well, they are also LGBTIQ+, multicultural and multifaith citizens. We have an exciting line up of panellists that reflect the goodwill and desire of people who have been kept apart by some media reporting. People in WA want to come together and support people to live and love in diversity in WA."

The AGMC have been warmed by the support of their sponsors the City of Vincent, Richmond Wellbeing, Umbrella Multicultural Services and both Curtin and Murdoch universities. The WA community have also been strong on this issue with groups like GRAI, Pride WA, WAAC, ECCWA, Office of Multicultural Interests and young people volunteering their time and talent to support the WA launch of this ground breaking book. Young people like LGBTIQ+ Illustrator and recent Curtin graduate Isaac Curran.

The AGMC book launch panel will include:

Lesbian Wurundjeri Elder Annette Xiberras, the anthology's editor Dr Maria Pallotta Chiarolli, Centre for Stories board member and writer Jay Anderson, Dr Duc Dau, the chief investigator of the first study of the LGBT student experience at an Australian university, Fr Chris Bedding from the Anglican Parish of Darlington. Bellevue and ECCWA President Ramdas Sankaran. The panel will also engage with the audience in a Q&A.

Some of the book writers speaking will include Annette Xiberras, Editor Maria Pallotta Chiaroli, Budi Sudarto and Carl Gopalkrishnan.

Bookings are Free on Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/living>

Harmony Alliance

Media release



ECCWA is a member of Harmony Alliance: Migrant and Refugee for women, Australia's national migrant and refugee women's coalition. Harmony Alliance issued a media release on the implementation strategy of the Fourth Action Plan on Tuesday 13 August...

Fourth Action Plan an opportunity to bring about positive change for migrant and refugee women experiencing violence

The Harmony Alliance welcomes the Fourth Action Plan of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022 as a valuable opportunity to work towards eliminating violence against all women in Australia.

The Chair of Harmony Alliance, Ms Maria Dimopoulos, welcomed the acknowledgement, in the Fourth Action Plan, of the diverse lived experiences of women and children affected by violence.

"The national consultations to inform the development of the Fourth Action Plan prominently recognised the need to address intersectionality of experiences, including as it relates to migrant and refugee women," said Ms Dimopoulos.

"As part of the implementation strategy, it is critical that this recognition translates into dedicated programs and funding to support migrant and refugee women experiencing violence," emphasised Ms Dimopoulos.

Women from migrant and refugee backgrounds are a particularly vulnerable group owing to the structural barriers they face when trying to escape situations of violence. "Of particular concern is the precarious situation of women experiencing violence who cannot access critical services and supports in view of their visa status," continued Ms Dimopoulos.

"Without addressing the situations of women from migrant and refugee backgrounds, the commitment to reduce violence against all women and their children falls short of supporting one of the most vulnerable groups to leave violent situations and seek safety," said Ms Dimopoulos.

"The Fourth Action Plan's effective implementation will require a dedicated focus on incorporating migrant and refugee women's experiences of violence across all priority areas of the Fourth Action Plan, to deliver intersectionally embedded responses from prevention to crisis response, to ongoing evaluation of the outcomes," emphasised Ms Dimopoulos.

"We look forward to working with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments to ensure that the implementation strategy brings about a positive change for migrant and refugee women experiencing or at risk of violence. Every woman should be supported to seek safety," concluded Ms Dimopoulos.

****For media enquiries contact Sana Ashraf at 0447 697 016****

The Harmony Alliance is one of the six National Women's Alliances funded by the Australian Government to promote the views of all Australian women, to ensure their voices are heard in decision-making processes. Our purpose is to provide a national inclusive and informed voice on the multiplicity of issues impacting on experiences and outcomes of migrant and refugee women, and to enable opportunities for women from migrant and refugee backgrounds to directly engage in driving positive change.

ACRATH Bollywood Night Fundraiser



The Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH) hosted a Bollywood Nights fundraising event on Saturday 10 August in Leederville as part of its ongoing efforts to stand up against human trafficking.

ACRATH this year marks 10 years (and counting) of its dedicated work in Western Australia.

“According to the International Labour Organisation, there are over 40 million people enslaved in the world today,” Kathy stated. “It happens in every country in the world, it happens in Australia, it happens in our own city of Perth, in our suburbs, it happens in our own backyard. We need to be aware and we need to know the indicators of human trafficking and what we can do,” she added.

Kathy reiterated that ACRATH works closely with the Australian Federal Police, Department of Home Affairs, Australian Border Force, Dept of Communities, Multicultural Centres, Women’s Council, the Humanitarian Group, and Anti-Slavery Australia among others and has played an instrumental role in the formation of the WA Forced Marriage Network.

She went on to explain that apart from advocating at local and federal level for the rights of trafficked people, the agency works directly with survivors.

WA Coordinator Kathy Fagan thanked those who generously contributed to the success of the event, including the Ethnic Communities Council of Western Australia. Over \$7,350 was raised on the night to assist with enabling ACRATH to continue its work in WA.



HEALTH CONSUMER'S COUNCIL SURVEY

In order to create positive change in healthcare, the HCC needs to hear from the people who use it. The HCC, together with the Behaviour Change Collaborative is proud to be assisting the WA Department of Health with gathering consumer feedback to inform ambulance service procurement. The HCC would be very grateful if you could share this link to our short 5-10 minute survey <https://survey.thinkfieldpanel.com.au/tf/29771NbCc> together with an invitation to attend consumer consultations in Perth, Bunbury and Broome.

WA AMBULANCE SERVICES

PUBLIC
CONSULTATION
AND ONLINE
SURVEY

Hosted by the
Health Consumers' Council (WA) Inc.
and the Behaviour Change Collaborative



HEALTH CONSUMERS'
COUNCIL



THE
BEHAVIOUR
CHANGE
COLLABORATIVE

PLEASE COMPLETE THE
SURVEY

AND / OR REGISTER YOUR
INTEREST TO ATTEND A
DISCUSSION IN PERTH,
BUNBURY OR BROOME

[HTTPS://WWW.HCONC.ORG.AU/PROJECTS
/AMBULANCE-SERVICES-PROJECT/](https://www.hconc.org.au/projects/ambulance-services-project/)

INFO@HCONC.ORG.AU
(08) 9221 3142



Agency of the month : CARAD



Our agency of the month newsletter segment is created to introduce ECCWA member community organisations and key non-profit organisations in the human service sector, and honour the excellent work they do for the community. CARAD (Centre for Asylum seekers Refugees and Detainees) is our featured member agency for the month of August.

CARAD is an independent, not-for-profit that has been providing essential services to people seeking asylum, refugees and detainees in Perth, WA for almost 20 years.

CARAD is committed to ensuring that people have the opportunity to rebuild their lives with dignity. CARAD's Client Services Program provides a safety net for people seeking asylum who are not eligible for government funded income or casework support and provides emergency relief such as: groceries, supermarket vouchers, public transport fares, emergency accommodation, utility bill payment and access to healthcare. The program also provides casework support and advocacy for people seeking asylum.

CARAD's Volunteer program has more than 250 active volunteers providing a range of supports to people seeking asylum and refugees in our community, including individual English language tuition and homework help for students. Volunteers also visit people seeking asylum who are currently in immigration detention centres to provide social support and advocacy.

CARAD has also started WA's first social enterprise food truck that provides employment opportunities for people seeking asylum and refugees, called the 'Fare Go Food Truck.' The truck also creates opportunities for the community to connect through sharing delicious cultural comfort food.

To learn more about CARAD, please visit <https://www.carad.org.au>

Address: 245 Stirling St, Perth WA 6000.
Phone: (61) 08 9227 7322
Open: 9am – 4pm Monday to Friday



2019-2020 MEMBERSHIP

Our membership subscription for the 2019-2020 financial year commencing in July is now open.

If you would like to renew your membership or sign up as a new member, please print and fill in the form in the next page and email it to www.admin@eccwa.org.au.

Membership for organisations is just \$33, and \$22 for individuals.

If you would like to find out more information, please call (08) 92275322

We look forward to working with you and for you this upcoming year.

Here are some of our members



BLACK SWAN
HEALTH LTD



METROPOLITAN
MIGRANT
RESOURCE CENTRE



ISWA

Indian Society Of Western Australia



Multicultural Women's
Health Services



MULTICULTURAL
SERVICES CENTRE

The Burgher Welfare League of WA Inc.



Helping the needy in Sri Lanka



Ethnic Communities Council
of Western Australia Inc.

20 View Street North Perth, WA 6006
Tel: (08) 9227 5322 admin@eccwa.org.au.



Ethnic Communities Council of Western Australia (Inc.)

20 View Street, North Perth, WA, 6000 Telephone (08) 92275322 Facsimile (08) 92275460
E-mail admin@eccwa.org.au Web www.eccwa.org.au ABN 91 163 351 869

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/ RENEWAL FOR 2019-20

NAME OF THE ASSOCIATION	
Postal Address	
Contact No. Phone	Email
Facsimile No.	Website
Approximate Membership of Your Association	



OFFICE BEARERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

President	Contact No.
Email	Facsimile
Secretary	Contact No.
Email	Facsimile
Treasurer	Contact No.
Email	Facsimile

NOMINATION OF DELEGATES OF THE ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCIL OF WA (INC.)

Delegate No.1	Contact No.	email
Delegate No.2	Contact No.	email



Ethnic Communities Council of Western Australia Inc.

PAYMENT of ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

YOUR CHOICE OF PAYMENT METHOD	YOUR TAX INVOICE
<u>CASH, POSTAL ORDER, OR CHEQUE OR ELECTRONIC TRANSFER</u>	Invoice Date _____ (Date of Application)
Make your Postal Order or Cheque payable to the Ethnic Communities Council of WA Inc. Post or present it to 20 View St. North Perth WA 6000. Please do not send Cash through the postal system.	Invoice No. _____
Bank:	DESCRIPTION Annual Subscription of Membership to the Ethnic Communities Council of WA (Inc.) for the Financial year _____ and _____
Banking Bank, 31 Fitzgerald St. N. Perth	Subscription FEE \$ <u>30.00</u>
BSB 633-000 Acc. No. 156354797	GST \$ <u>3.00</u>
	Total \$ <u>33.00</u>
	<i>amended 23rd August 2003</i>

1. PAYMENT AUTHORITY MUST BE SIGNED BY A DULY AUTHORISED OFFICER OF THE ASSOCIATION

<input type="checkbox"/> Cash	<input type="checkbox"/> Money Order	<input type="checkbox"/> Cheque	<input type="checkbox"/> Electronic Transfer
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OFFICE USE ONLY

Payment Method Funds received & reconciled (Yes/ No)

Receipt No. Date

Date sent before the Management Committee