



# ECCWA NEWS

CHRISTMAS EDITION

**ECCWA - the Board members and staff want to wish  
all community members a Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year**



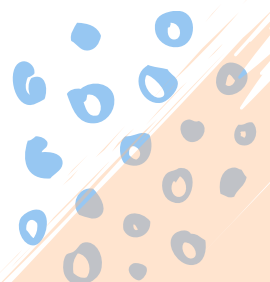
**During the Christmas period, the Cannington office will be closed, but  
the North Perth office will be open between 30th December and the 4th  
January except for public holidays and weekends.**



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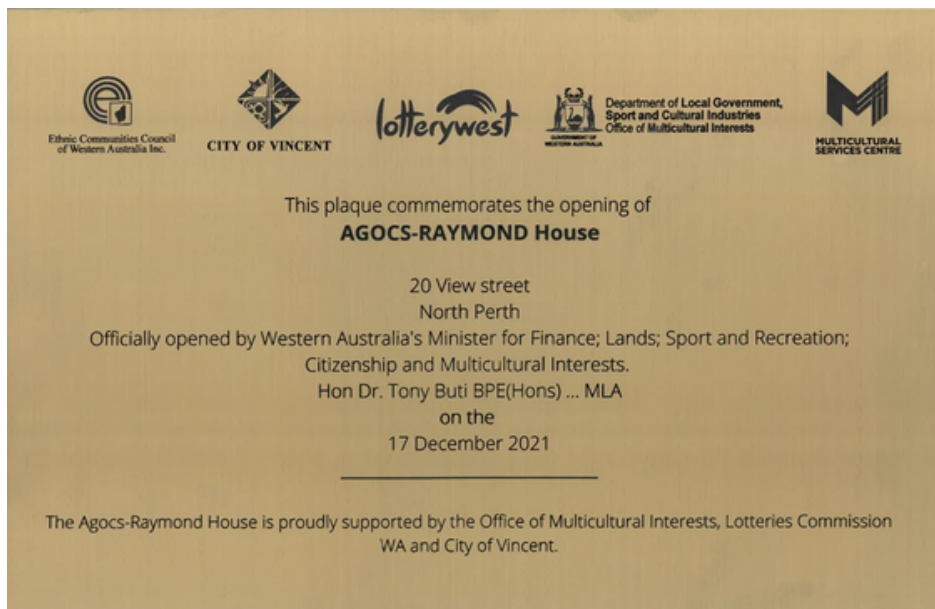


# ECCWA NEWS

## New name for ECCWA office in North Perth.

On Friday 17th December, the refurbished North Perth office of the Ethnic Communities Council of WA was proclaimed as the AGOCS-RAYMOND House. This name honours the contribution to multicultural communities made by Nicholas Agocs and Russell Raymond. This naming was officially performed by the Hon. Dr Tony Buti BPE (Hons); DipEd; MIR; LLB (Hons); DPhil. Minister for Finance; Lands; Sports and Recreation; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests; Racing and Gaming; Aboriginal Affairs.

A bronze plaque has been commissioned to reflect the new name.



The event was attended by many dignitaries, the Minister, Dr Buti, Ms Meredith Hammat (MLA, Mirrabooka), James Jegasothy (A/Executive Director, OMI), Said Padshah, (Multicultural Advisor to the Minister), Ramdas Sankaran (CEO MSCWA) and community leaders.

The guests of honour were the members of the Agocs and Raymond families.

**Nicholas Agocs** born in Hungary in 1938, arrived in WA in 1950. He was a primary and secondary school teacher, and a Justice of the Peace. He made enduring contributions to the Ethnic Communities Council of WA, the Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia, the North Perth Migrant Resource Centre, the Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commissions, the State School Teachers Union, the Australian Labor Party and other community organisations.

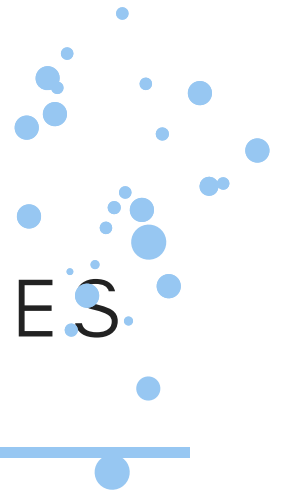
**Russell Raymond OAM** was a retired senior journalist who had substantial experience in the multicultural sector for over 30 years at the local, state and national levels. He held many positions including President and Secretary of the Ethnic Communities Council of WA, and Deputy Chair and Secretary of Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia and the Vice-Chair of the Multicultural Services Centre .



Minister Tony Buti, Meredith Hammat MLA, Suresh Rajan President ECCWA, Rahim Ghauri Senior Vice-President ECCWA, Mamta Kochhar Vice President of Women's Interests, Champo Ngweshe Secretary ECCWA, Ranjit Ratnayake Board Member ECCWA, James Jegasothy, Vivienne Pillay EO ECCWA and ECCWA staff.

Suresh Rajan, Minister Buti holding the plaque with Barbara Agocs, and her daughter Andrea.





# RECENT STAFF ACTIVITIES

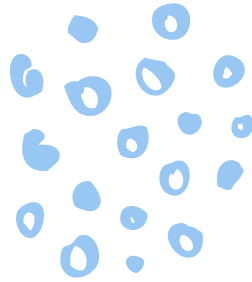
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Multicultural Services Centre of WA celebrated their 40th birthday with an event at the Convention Centre on Friday 11th December. This was a grand evening of celebration with a rollcall of dignitaries starting with Dr. Prabha Karan Krishnan – Chairperson of MSC, and previous office bearers from MSC's long past. There were recorded messages from the PM Scott Morrison and the Premier Mark McGowan, who were both otherwise engaged; nevertheless, there were other members of parliament - Minister Tony Buti MLA, Meredith Hammat MLA, and Margaret Quirk MLA, and Tjorn Sibma, MLC. Many guests looked resplendent in their national dress. Awards were made and ECCWA was recognised as an Exemplary Lifetime Partner.

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Amira and Eliza applied for and were awarded grant money to run education programs for people from multicultural communities about Covid and the vaccine, which they are in the process of providing with the assistance of an interpreter and a health worker.

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Nihal ran a very successful Speed Greeting day to celebrate the International Day of People with Disability, which you can read about below.

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Sharan completed another language training session for the students at North Metro TAFE. The sessions were delivered before and after their work experience with the aim of preparing students for some tricky situations with workmates and/or customers and teaching them some useful sentences, and then debriefing them afterward. There was much laughter during the completion of an exercise on Australian slang!

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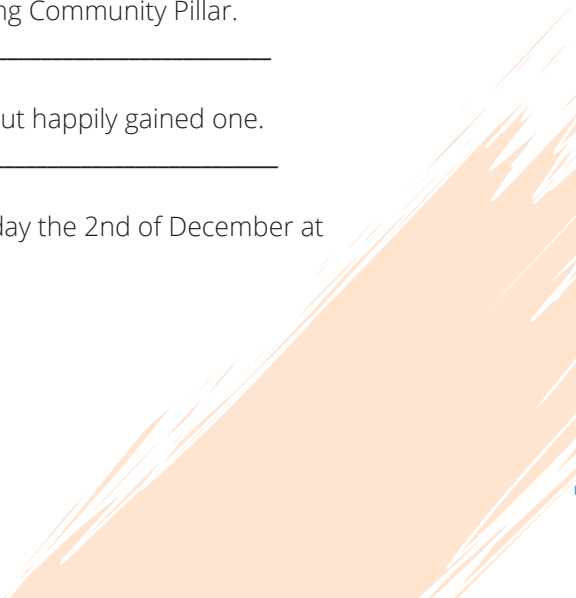
Viv and Nhi went to the Gala Awards night for the Zimbabwean Association of Western Australia, where they were treated to a wonderful night of celebration and dance. Awards were given for Art, Music and Culture; Innovation and Entrepreneurship; Influencer/Social Change and Impact; and Sports. Awards were also given to the Young Achiever and the outstanding Community Pillar.

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This year has seen small staff changes and sadly, we have lost two staff but happily gained one.

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Finally, our staff celebrated the end of another successful year on Thursday the 2nd of December at Amano's restaurant in Perth.





# SPEAK MY LANGUAGE DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY SPEED GREETING EVENT

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To celebrate the International Day of People with Disability on Friday 3rd December, Nihal Iscel and ECCWA staff created an exciting event called Speed Greeting. People were invited to meet Guest Speakers and Story-tellers who participated in the Speak My Language (SML) program to learn about their life experiences, hobbies, etc one-on-one. The day started with an acknowledgement of country, and a short explanation of the SML program from Nihal, then there was a short panel discussion.


Our Story Tellers are people from Culturally and linguistically diverse background with disability who tell stories of their everyday lives; Guest Speakers are service providers working in the mainstream services who provide information on inclusive places, activities, resources, opportunities and programs. They generously donated their time to participate in this event.

For the Speed Greeting, the visitors were able to ask participants about their daily lives, their work, study, hobbies, friends, how they do their shopping, raise their family, go on holidays and so on, and how they use skills and community resources to do so. Each conversation only lasted 5 minutes and then the visitors moved to the next participant. This was a resounding success and enjoyed by all. In fact, it was so well-received, that there were calls for it to be repeated!

Everyone then ate a lovely lunch and were treated to the angelic singing of the multi-talented Grace King, who kindly stepped in to become a Story-teller for the day.

If you are a service provider who can speak a language other than English and would like to tell us about inclusive services, programs, events, venues, and also if you are a person with disability from migrant / refugee background and would like to tell your story of living well, we would love to hear from you. Your stories will be recorded and made publicly available to encourage other people with disability to access the supports and services they need. To participate, please call us on 08 9227 5322 or email: [nihal@eccwa.org.au](mailto:nihal@eccwa.org.au)

For more information about the Speak My Language program and to listen to the podcasts, please see this link: <https://speakmylanguage.com.au/about-speak-my-language>





# FECCA: ADVANCING MULTICULTURAL AUSTRALIA 2022 CONFERENCE

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## REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN

### REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN!

[FECCA 2022: Advancing Multicultural Australia conference](#)  
[10-11 March 2022 - Sofitel Melbourne](#)

Registrations are now open for FECCA 2022: Advancing Multicultural Australia, the premier conference on multiculturalism, diversity & inclusion, health, ageing and migration will take place 10-11 March 2022 at the Sofitel-Melbourne.

The conference will host multicultural communities, policy makers, service providers, academics and many more, over two big days of interesting presentations, speakers and topics.

It is co-hosted by FECCA and the Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria (ECCV).

## 10-11 MARCH 2022





# PATHWAYS TO PERMANENT RESIDENCE FOR AFGHAN EVACUEES

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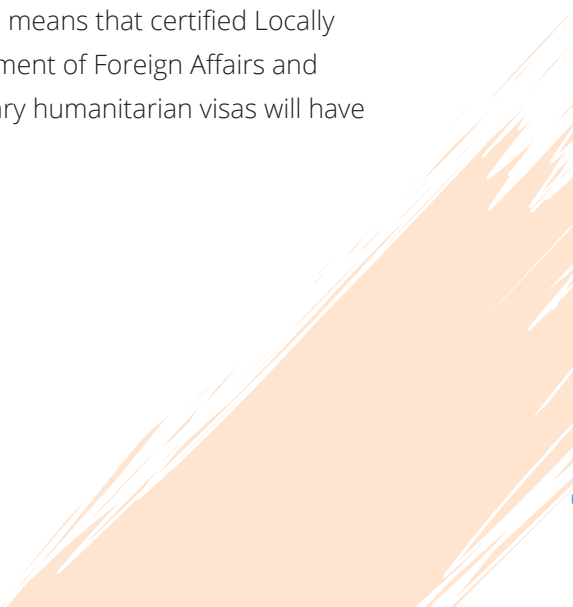
Australian Government announced further measures to assist Afghan nationals evacuated to Australia following the Coalition withdrawal. Afghan evacuees will have their existing 449 visas extended for 12 months ensuring continued access to the full range of Government support services as they undertake the process of transitioning onto permanent Australian visas.

In addition, Afghan evacuees will now be able to transition to offshore permanent protection visas rather than onshore visas which would normally apply to applicants already in Australia. This legislative change provides for access to a broader range of Government support and settlement services.

The Government is looking at all possible avenues to ensure visa options through Australia's long-standing Humanitarian and Migration Programs continue to be available to Afghan nationals, both within Afghanistan and in other countries. Within the Humanitarian program, the Department of Home Affairs has been instructed to afford the highest processing priority to applicants from Afghanistan. More information is available on the Home Affairs website: [Afghanistan update](#).

## Visas Extended for Afghans Who Supported Australia's Mission in Afghanistan

Today it has been announced that temporary humanitarian visas issued to Afghans who supported Australia's mission in Afghanistan, and who remain in Afghanistan following the August air evacuation, will be extended on an ongoing basis. This decision means that certified Locally Engaged Employees from the Department of Defence, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and the Australian Federal Police who were issued temporary humanitarian visas will have their visas extended.







# *Proud Children*

## *Community Book Launch*

The Mayor Ruth Butterfield and Councillors of the City of Armadale invite you and your family to attend the launch of the community book *Proud Children*, the second component of the Proud Children Project including the Proud Literacy Backpacks launched in July.

The *Proud Children* community book was developed as part of the *Learning English Through Storytime* program held at Armadale Library in August and September 2021.

### **Event Details**

**Date:** Monday 29 November 2021  
**Time:** 3.30 - 4.30pm  
**Address:** Armadale Library  
Armadale Central Shopping Centre  
Shop 64/10 Orchard Avenue, Armadale  
**RSVP:** By Friday 26 November on 9394 5133  
or [sreilly@armadale.wa.gov.au](mailto:sreilly@armadale.wa.gov.au)





# PROUD CHILDREN BOOK LAUNCH

CITY OF ARMADALE LIBRARY



The City of Armadale Library launched their latest book called "Proud Children" on Monday 29th November.

Armadale has a wide range of ethnic groups within its boundaries and the library runs a number of literacy and reading programs for children and families. Their aim is to encourage reading and a love of books, but they recognise how important it is for children to be reading books that reflect them.

They created the Proud Children Project to encourage children from diverse backgrounds to feel proud of who they are and to improve their literacy through creating their own book.

ECCWA were invited to attend the launch of this special book and Amira and Sharan joined with more than 30 other people - some of them the parents and children whose photographs were in the book.

There were many squeals of delight when the children recognised themselves as the book was read to us.





# Australia Day

Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

## AUSTRALIA DAY 2022 COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

### APPLY NOW:

## AUSTRALIA DAY 2022 COMMUNITY EVENTS GRANTS

### Overview

- The National Australia Day Council, with the support of the Federal Government, is providing \$7.5 million in grants to help Councils and not-for-profit organisations host Australia Day events and activities that bring their community together to reflect, respect and celebrate.
- Applications are now open for the National Australia Day Council's Australia Day 2022 Community Events grants program.
- Councils and community organisations can apply for grants of up to \$30,000.
- Applications close at 5pm AEST on 19 November 2021.
- To learn more or to apply for a grant, visit <https://australiaday.smartygrants.com.au>

### Australia Day 2022

- Australia Day is a day to reflect, respect and celebrate. To learn more, [click here](#)
- The National Australia Day Council (NADC) and its state and territory network are proud to support councils and not-for-profit organisations deliver hundreds of Australia Day events around the nation.
- Supported by the Federal Government, the NADC is providing \$7.5 million in grants to help Councils and community organisations host Australia Day 2022 events that bring their community together to reflect, respect and celebrate.

### What grants can I apply for?

- Councils and not-for-profit organisations can apply for grants of up to \$20,000 to help deliver Australia Day 2022 events that use the National Australia Day Council's 'Reflect. Respect. Celebrate. We're all part of the story.' branding.
- Applicants that collaborate with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to incorporate activities that reflect and respect the history of local indigenous people and celebrate their culture will be eligible to apply for an additional \$10,000 for these activities.

# ŞEKERPARE RECIPE

Prep:30 mins  
Cook:30 mins  
Total:60 mins  
Servings:10 servings

## Ingredients

- 1 1/8 cups butter (or margarine, soft at room temperature)
- 2 1/4 cups flour
- 1 rounded tsp. baking powder
- 3 rounded tbsp. semolina
- 2/3 cup powdered sugar
- 1 rounded tsp. European vanilla (powdered sugar form)
- 2 eggs
- 4 cups water (hot)
- 2 1/4 cups sugar
- 1/2 lemon
- 25 to 30 almonds (or hazelnuts for garnish)



## Method

1. First, place the softened butter or margarine in a large mixing bowl and whip with an electric mixer on the lowest setting until creamy.

2. Add the flour. Wearing rubber gloves, work the flour into the butter with your fingers until combined. Add the powdered sugar, vanilla, baking powder, and semolina and continue working them in with your fingers until the dough has a smooth consistency. The warmth from your hands will help melt the butter and soften the mixture as you work.

3. In the meantime, start the syrup. Add 4 cups of boiling water to a saucepan. Add the granulated sugar and the half lemon. Bring to a boil then gently simmer uncovered for about 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Remove from the heat and let it cool down just a bit.

4. Next, add the eggs to the dough mixture and knead them into the dough until smooth.

5. With your hands, pinch off a piece of dough and roll it into a ball about the size of an apricot. Place it on an ungreased metal oven tray. Continue making even-sized balls and lining them up side by side, leaving some space in between.

6. Gently press down on the top of each ball to flatten it slightly. Press an almond or a hazelnut into the center of each.

7. Bake in a 160C or 320F oven for 20 to 25 minutes until the tops of your cookies are golden brown.

8. Remove your tray from the oven and, while it is still hot, pour the warm syrup evenly over the top.

9. Let the tray cool down to room temperature. As they cool, the cookies will absorb the syrup and get soft.

10. When the şekerpare are cool, they are ready to serve. Serve two or three on a decorative plate and garnish them with a spoonful of Turkish clotted cream, called "kaymak" if you wish.

# ECCWA MEMBERSHIP

As the state's peak ethnic umbrella organisation, our work is to represent community organisations and CaLD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse) individuals' interests and ensure they have access to effective systemic advocacy as well as the necessary resources to serve their respective communities.

Our membership program allows all of our members to exchange and benefit from each other's services such as settlement grant programs, women's services and mental health services. Annual memberships for 2021 - 2022 are free due to COVID-19. Memberships are open to: key organisations working with multicultural or CaLD persons and to Community Associations.

To sign up, please obtain our membership form from <https://www.eccwa.org.au/membership> and email it to [admin@eccwa.org.au](mailto:admin@eccwa.org.au).

If you wish to seek further information, please call us on (08) 9227 5322 to speak to an ECCWA officer and or schedule a meeting with our Policy officers or with Mrs Vivienne Pillay, the ECCWA's Executive Officer .



The Chung Wah  
Association Inc