

# EQUITY

Ethnic Communities Council of WA Inc.



*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.*



## Autumn 2017

### DISCLAIMER

The views presented in EQUITY do not necessarily reflect those of the management or staff of the Ethnic Communities Council of Western Australia

# Council Commends Hon. Paul Papalia's Appointment as Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests

The Ethnic Communities Council of WA warmly welcomed the appointment of the Hon Paul Papalia as the new Minister for



Defence Issues, Tourism, Citizenship and Multicultural Interests.

Mr. Papalia, unlike his two predecessors was born in Western Australia, and we commended Premier McGowan for giving him the portfolio responsibility for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests in addition to Defence Issues and Tourism.

In his Inaugural Speech, Mr Papalia observed, "optimism and hope are things I have encountered constantly throughout my short but very crowded political life. My Navy service as a clearance diver has shaped who I am. Mateship, determination, courage and an abiding sense of humour distinguish the clearance diver. The answer to the journalist's question of why would I become a politician is simple. Given the opportunity, I felt obliged to step forward." Further, he also conveyed, "I also believe there are many good men and women on both sides of politics. I believe that all those who enter this place do so with the intention of doing good and serving their community. The vast majority of members maintain

that focus and contribute greatly to the betterment of our society. I believe it is essential that we attract good aspirants to political life from as many walks of life as possible. Therefore faced with the opportunity to contribute, I simply had no choice."

ECCWA believes that such qualities and commitment will endear him to ALL Western Australians and not just those of CaLD background". It will also hopefully end the partisan approach that his two predecessors adopted to this portfolio".

Most importantly, his own ethnic and family backgrounds (which he recounted in his inaugural speech) epitomise the significant contributions that people of CaLD backgrounds have made to Australia and Western Australia in particular.

His grandfather migrated from Italy, spoke English with a broad accent and preferred to speak to his friends in his mother tongue. His wife wore traditional clothing that many Australians found to be dark and strange looking and their children were born in Australia. Their family was viewed with a little suspicion by other Australians and when Australia joined the world war in which many of the man's former countrymen were on the opposing side he was removed from his family and jailed.

A little over half a century since his grandfather's imprisonment, as a potential terrorist, Mr Papalia was elected to the WA parliament after a distinguished military career lasting 26 years, during which time he became a Navy Clearance Diver, served in the counter terrorist squadron of the Special Air Service Regiment, was deployed twice to Iraq on operations and was awarded the [Conspicuous Service Cross](#) in 1994."

Equally important are his views on terrorism conveyed in his inaugural speech. "I am not soft on terrorists. I love my country and will willingly do anything to defend it against a threat. However, I am

gravely concerned when minority groups are used as scapegoats and targeted for political purposes. I believe the best way to defend this country against internal threats is to promote inclusiveness.

**Minority groups that feel they are part of society will work to defend it and are best placed to identify rogue elements.**

Debate on this matter is often led at the federal level, but the impact of that debate and subsequent changes to society are experienced in every state, including this state. By isolating people we fuel discontent and risk missing out on potentially significant contributions from future generations. I believe it is the role of government to exercise good leadership

and assist everybody to make a full contribution to society.”

Multiculturalism was at its zenith in this state during the term of the Gallop government. Given his aforementioned knowledge, skills, traits, experience and commitment, our Council believes that Mr. Papalia is very well placed to reverse the institutional racism that was perpetuated by Messrs Castrilli and Nahan in their capacity as Ministers for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests and usher in another golden era for Multiculturalism.

**ECCWA looks forward to working with Minister Papalia, the Premier and his colleagues to achieve our common objectives.**

## Editorial

The Ethnic Communities Council of Western Australia has expressed grave concerns about the proposed changes to the eligibility requirements for Australian Citizenship, which ignore the realities of our historic waves of migration from Europe and since, from Vietnam. Hundreds of thousands of those migrants arrived with little or no English proficiency and they and the generations that followed have contributed substantially to the economic, cultural and social development of Australia. Their lack of English language proficiency didn't make them any lesser citizens of Australia than the rest of society.

Mr Turnbull ignores the fact that the public policy of “integration” was in place in Australia between the periods of Assimilation and multiculturalism and there were good reasons why it was dumped in favour of multiculturalism. Most importantly, he has repeatedly pronounced multiculturalism as the glue that holds our society together but he fails to grasp that integration into such a society cannot be based solely on an “Anglo” perspective of integration. He blatantly ignores the fact that Aboriginal people have been in Australia for 50,000 years and all major religions including Christianity originated in the Middle East and Asia. Sadly he is beginning to sound more and more like Pauline Hanson.

Our Council accepts that learning English is important for effective settlement and participation in society; but not everybody is capable of learning let alone acquiring fluency in it. To penalise them for it or to question their loyalty to Australia or the common values which we share, is unconscionable. To claim English fluency will magically solve our unemployment is fanciful to say the least and defies the realities of hundreds of thousands of people who have no English proficiency being fully employed whilst hundreds of thousands who are proficient are unemployed or underemployed.

Family violence in all its forms should be repudiated by all Australians and not just migrants. It is perplexing to say the least that that governments funding to tackle family violence is disproportionately allocated to addressing family violence within mainstream and not migrant communities. If the government is serious about its rhetoric, it's time it put its money where its mouth is in tackling family violence within ethnic communities. Passing a test that is question-based and then resting assured that they won't engage in family violence, female genital mutilation, child marriage etc. is no way to address such social ills.

At the last federal election the combined percentage of women nominees of the Liberal, the Liberal National Party and the Nationals was only 25.16% and so it is hardly surprising that women hold only 17 per cent of its seats. The ALP has a much better record with women holding nearly 40% of its seats. Globally, women are now running a total of 22 countries, including Germany, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Liberia, Argentina, Bangladesh, Kosovo, Cyprus and now Britain. Australia, on the other hand, has the lowest number of federal women MPs in a quarter of a century and contemptuously dumped its only female PM three years ago. So Mr. Turnbull and his colleagues are the last people who should preach to migrants about gender equality

**Migrants and refugees are highly motivated to succeed economically and take up citizenship as quickly as they can because of their commitment to Australia. The logic of proposed changes is beyond comprehension for those who fail the test thrice have to wait a further two years before they can take the test again and for that period they continue to remain permanent residents of Australia. Those who seek to become Australian Citizens need to be supported and not blamed or penalised unnecessarily. Proposed changes to the eligibility requirements for Australian Citizenship will lead to Alienation not Integration at a time when social cohesion needs to be strengthened.**

There is nothing innovative or agile about reverting to the public policy of integration which was in vogue between the periods of Assimilation and Multiculturalism in the 60s and 70s. When the totality of changes are taken into account, the policy they have reverted is more about assimilation rather than integration. It was only 50 years ago that we started “counting” the indigenous people who have been in Australia for 50,000 years and this contextual reference is pertinent to this issue for there are still many indigenous people who are not fluent in English and would be considered non-citizens if the English proficiency that the government is advocating in its proposed changes is also applied to them! It is clear that the government is doing all it can to distract attention away from its political and economic woes by attacking migrants, refugees and multiculturalism. ECCWA calls upon community and business leaders to do all they can to stem the “hatred against all things non-Anglo” that is being fomented by racial wolf whistling such as this.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Suicide the Silent Killer within indigenous and ethnic communities**

ECCWA has drawn 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 and in particular the number of suicides that have occurred in Perth since January 2017. Staff of the Multicultural Services Centre of Western Australia have drawn 10 suicides to our attention and ECCWA Secretary advised us of one.

Some of the people who committed suicide as outlined in the table below are not proficient in English and have no access to clinical multicultural mental health services or services which use interpreters to service them.

As per the state government’s suicide prevention strategy report released some years ago, migrants commit suicide at a higher rate than the Australian born and

those of CaLD background commit suicide at a higher rate than their Anglo counterparts.

Despite this in recent times the resources that have been assigned by the Coalition commonwealth and state governments to suicide prevention within ethnic communities has been woefully inadequate. Sadly the Office of Multicultural Interest had little or no influence on this matter during the term of the Barnett government.

Eleven suicides in less than 5 months is far too high and the situation is much worse when you consider many more attempted suicide unsuccessfully.

WA was the first state in Australia to establish a Multicultural Psychiatric Centre. Over the years its name changed and its resources were severely depleted and about 12 or so months ago it ceased operations.

Multicultural Agencies made a presentation to the Mental Health Advisory Council and through it to the Mental Health Commission more than two years ago. Most of the concerns they conveyed still remain. The WA Coroner's report of a suicide that took place about 5 years ago highlights the tragic ramifications of not using multicultural and linguistically appropriate mental health services.

<http://www.coronerscourt.wa.gov.au/files/Mihajlovic%20finding.pdf>

As we know, colonisation, the policy of assimilation that led to the stolen generations and resulting appalling living conditions and traumas have led to a suicide rate within indigenous communities that far exceeds that of non-Aboriginal people.

Maurveen Muir, a St Johns Ambulance volunteer who was the first to arrive at the

scene of one of the recent suicide deaths in Leonora expressed the belief that "a total reform of services was required. Currently mental health support, as well as drug and alcohol counselling, operate as a fortnightly drive-in, drive-out service from Kalgoorlie, 230 kilometres away."

We suspect that her belief is equally relevant to indigenous people in other parts of WA and the situation will get much worse if the government and the community do not make fundamental changes to how this scourge is addressed.

Clearly the mainstream is failing both indigenous and ethnic communities. ECCWA will work with indigenous leaders to organise a forum in early July to highlight our concerns.

### **Suicides that have occurred in Perth since January 2017 known to Multicultural Services Centre staff**

No	Age	Gender	Ethnicity	Nature of Incident i.e. hanging, over dose, other	Marital status. Did the person have dependent children
1	< 25	F	Burmese	Over dose	Single
2	30	F	Afghan	Hanging	Married with 5 Children
3	< 25	M	Ethiopian	Hanging	Single
4	> 25	M	Malaysian	Hanging	Single
5	> 25	M	European	Jumped off Carpark	Single
6	> 25	M	European	Hanging	Single
7	< 25	M	Rohingya	Gassed	Single
9	> 50	F	Sri Lankan	Over dose	Married
10	>30	M	Congolese	Hanging	Single
11	14	N/K	N/K	N/K	Single

## International Women's Day

ECCWA celebrated International Women's Day event on 8<sup>th</sup> March with the theme "Be Bold for Change". It was a great success, thanks substantially to Nasreen Lang who undertook the coordination responsibility and many other tasks and a number of MSC staff including ECC MC members, Pius and Alphonse who were there for the entire function and assisted with many things. Two other MSC staff Leonard and Audrey also provided substantial support.

It was attended by nearly 200 participants, mostly women of diverse culture, faith and language backgrounds.

Hanifa Deen, an award-winning Australian author, provided the Keynote address. Her first book *Caravansserei* won the [New South Wales Premier's Literary Awards](#) in 1996, and her other book, *The Jihad Seminar* was short-listed for the 2008 [Human Rights Awards](#) — Literature Non-Fiction Award. Ms Deen was a former Deputy Commissioner of Western Australia's Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission. Roia Atmar, a victim of domestic violence, spoke about her personal experience. Her story was incredibly powerful and radiated our theme of "being bold for change" through Roia's astounding resilience. Mei Saraswati provided music inspired by her Chinese Malay and Bahai background. Golda Signal and Wahida Samim were two young speakers from MYAN WA's "Shout Out" program, who facilitated a panel discussion on "Women in Leadership".

We created a Facebook event, and published the event on the official International Women's Day webpage. We created a flyer and poster that were promoted via our Facebook page, event and through various other networks. The Event was streamed live on Facebook and was filmed in full by WTV and broadcasted via its Under Current Program. This can be accessed from <http://www.wtvperth.com.au/episodes/4085>

We managed to secure sponsorships from the following: Bendigo Bank (\$2,000), MSCWA (\$1,000) Black Swan Health, Umbrella and Richmond Wellbeing (\$500 each) and ICCWA and Ishar (\$250 each). The City of Bayswater gave us a donation of \$200 and we received cash donations from the following parliamentarians: Hon. Roger Cook, Hon Margaret Quirk, Hon. Stephen Dawson, Ms. Eleni Evangel, Ms. Janine Freeman, Hon Amber Jade Sanderson, and Ms. Simone McGurk. A number of individuals and associations donated prizes for the raffle and we extend our thanks to all of the above.

### In kind support

We received in kind support from Edmund Rice Centre, BreastScreen WA, Red Cross and several volunteers who gave generously of their time and effort to make this event an enjoyable and productive one.

Some feedback we received include the following:

- I would just like to say thank you for having ICCWA attend the International Women's Day event last Wednesday. Personally, I found the event hugely rewarding and the speakers inspirational. I look forward to any future projects/collaborations between ICCWA and ECCWA. (From the Injury Control Council of WA)
- Thank you for a delightful experience. My friend felt that there can be time for the people on each table to talk more, so that they talk less while presentations are happening. That is, perhaps less presentations, more socialising. I liked the dancing, maybe some group singing with the words projected on the screen. I felt there was a lot of useful information as well as heartfelt experience. Very inspiring. And the home-made food was delicious! I was happy with that, didn't really need the pizza. Thank you again. (From individual participant)
- Thanks. It had excellent speakers and topics were relevant to IWD.
- Congratulations I would recommend viewing the Undercurrent coverage by WTV to those who were not present at

the event. (From Jenny Au Yeong former CEO of EDAC.)

We screened a short video on Refugees and Asylum seekers at the event given the theme for IWD this year was “Be Bold for Change” and the overwhelming majority of refugee and asylum seekers globally are women and young children. . The Coalition and the ALP have let us down very badly in how we have responded to the global refugee and asylum seeker crisis and this was an opportunity to highlight the need for significant changes to public policies to safeguard the interests of these vulnerable people and to remind participants that we all need to be much bolder in what we demand of our politicians to achieve this.

**ABS Census WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

#### **Who was the ‘typical’ Western Australian in 2016?**

In Australia’s largest state, with more than 12,500 kilometres of coastline, you’re likely to find the ‘typical’ Western Australian. Unlike the ‘typical’ Australian, he is male. Let’s call him ‘Paul’.

Paul is 37 years old, a year older than the ‘typical’ Western Australian in 2011 and 2006. He was born in Australia, has English ancestry and speaks English at home. Unlike the ‘typical’ Australian, at least one of his parents was born overseas, which was also the case in 2011 and 2006.

#### **What else do we know about Paul?**

Like the ‘typical’ Australian, Paul is married and lives in a couple family with two children. He has completed Year 12 and does between five and 14 hours of domestic work per week.

Unlike the ‘typical’ Australian, who lives in a home with three bedrooms, Paul lives in a home with four bedrooms. Similar to the rest of the country, he lives in a home that has two motor vehicles. The ‘typical’ Western Australian home is owned with a mortgage, as it was in 2011 and 2006.

The ‘typical’ Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person in Western Australia is male. This differs from 2011 and 2006,

when the ‘typical’ Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person in Western Australia was female. In 2016, he is 23 years old, a year older than in 2011 and two years older than in 2006.

#### **Where was the ‘typical’ migrant born?**

The ‘typical’ migrant in Western Australia was born in England, is female and speaks English at home. She is 43 years old, a year younger than in 2011 and three years younger than in 2006.

**We’re an eclectic lot.** While the Census provides plenty of info on the ‘typical’ Australian, it also shows we’re a big, diverse community. **There’s nothing typical about Australians.**

## **First Census insights highlight Australia’s increasing diversity**

On 11 April, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) revealed the first insights from the 2016 Census of Population and Housing, highlighting Australia’s increasing diversity through key characteristics that make the ‘typical’ Australian in 2016. This information comes ahead of the first Census data release on Tuesday, 27 June 2017 which will include datasets for all national, state/territory and capital cities, along with datasets for small population groups and small geographic areas such as suburbs and Local Government Areas. What it reveals is that there’s nothing ‘typical’ about Australians at all!

The 2016 Census has revealed the ‘typical’ Australian is a 38 year old female who was born in Australia, and is of English ancestry. She is married and lives in a couple family with two children and has completed high school. She lives in a house with three bedrooms and two motor vehicles.

The ‘typical’ Australian male is 37 years old – a year younger than the ‘typical’ female – and spends less than five hours a week on domestic work, while the ‘typical’ female

spends between five and 14 hours a week on domestic work. Although our 'typical' Australian has both parents born in Australia, the 'typical' Australian in New South Wales, Victoria, and Western Australia has at least one parent who was born overseas.

Reflecting Australia's growing diversity, in 2016, the 'typical' migrant in New South Wales was born in China, is female and is 44 years old. A decade ago, the 'typical' migrant in New South Wales was a 45 year old female born in England. Meanwhile, the 'typical' migrant in Victoria was born in India. In 2011, the 'typical' migrant in Victoria was born in England. And like the 'typical' Victorian, she speaks English at home, and is 43 years old – two years younger than in 2011 and four years younger than in 2006.

## **ECCWA Appoints Senior Policy Officer**



ECCWA is pleased to advise that it has appointed Dr. Klaudia Jadwiga Mierswa as its Senior Policy Officer. Klaudia is a highly motivated and talented, multi-lingual (English, German, Polish, French, Spanish, Dutch and Swedish) doctoral researcher with expertise in international and European migration, public and social policies, cosmopolitanism, policy decision-making processes, and international human rights, working on the provision of reception conditions and accommodation to asylum seekers in the European Union

and their compliance with international human rights provisions.

Klaudia's extensive skills include:

- Understanding and critically analysing current work in the field of migration, asylum and human rights provisions.
- Using a variety of research methods and the ability of justifying the use of a certain research method.
- Understanding and synthesising large quantities of data.
- Managing a project from the beginning to the end, identify goals and task to be accomplished and set up a realistic timeline for completion.

Her employment history includes a 3-year scholarship awarded by Northumbria University to conduct research on the project "Cosmopolitanism and asylum seekers in the European Union – Is the EU fulfilling its obligations?"; and examining the various legislative and administrative provisions that are in place in order to guarantee the protection of human rights of asylum seekers in various EU Member States, and analysing the extent to which these provisions are implemented, and what factors are influencing the Member States in their compliance with these provisions.

Klaudia has also been a Member of a Consulting Board created by the Newcastle City Council (UK) to consult and assist the City Council in the provision of reception conditions and support to asylum seekers and refugees in Newcastle. She has also provided Independent Consulting for local and national governments in Germany, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom.

We have no doubts that with the range of skills and expertise she has Klaudia will before too long be working in senior positions at a national level, but we consider ourselves fortunate that we have her as our Senior Policy officer until then.

## Antonio Krsticevic's Appointment as Shadow Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests to Herald Return of Bi Partisanship



ECCWA welcomes the appointment of Mr Antonio (Tony) Krsticevic as Shadow Minister for Local Government; Heritage; Culture and the Arts; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests for we believe it will herald the return of bi partisanship that prevailed in our sector for decades till the election of the Barnett government.

We are particularly pleased with Tony's appointment for he once was a member of the management committee of the Ethnic Communities Council of Western Australia and knows firsthand the value of the work it does unlike his two predecessors.

Mr Antonio Krsticevic was born in Croatia in 1966 and migrated to Australia in 1969. He was raised in a working-class family in which hard work and respect, and a belief in one's ability to succeed, formed the

fundamental principles of his childhood. In his inaugural speech, Tony recounted that his father always said, "Hard and honest work will reap you the benefits of a happy and prosperous life. He also taught me that everything in life worth having is worth working hard for. On the basis of my life experiences, I strongly believe that policies based on equality of opportunity, the generation of wealth, free and competitive enterprise, consumer choice, and reward for effort are crucial for the future success of our state."

ECCWA shares Tony's belief particularly equality of opportunity, and consumer choice and looks forward to working with him to advance the Multicultural Agenda.

## Liberal's Support of One Nation, the Ultimate Betrayal

The Ethnic Communities' Council of WA was bewildered by Liberal party of WA's decision to do a preference deal with One Nation for the March State Election especially since a week before that Premier Barnett "cautioned people against voting for One Nation, saying it would be bad if the balance of power in WA's upper house was controlled by candidates from a minor party".

He had good reasons to be cautious given "One Nation's stance against the sale of public assets and Ms Hanson's explicit threat her party wouldn't work with any party, if its policy doesn't align with theirs. <http://www.smh.com.au/wa-news/wa-election-2017/premier-colin-barnett-warns-against-voting-one-nation-20170206-gu6y9t.html>

Furthermore, its webpage states that One Nation is committed to "government controlled people's bank" and it believes that "Australians have the right to a cohesive society and deny immigration to anyone who does not abide by our law, culture, democracy, flag or **Christian** way of life."

"Not so long ago our Council commended the Premier for his stance on children in

Immigration detention and his willingness to accommodate a number of asylum seekers and these views of his are clearly not shared by One Nation”.

Mr. Barnett’s claim that the Liberal Party’s preference deal with Pauline Hanson’s One Nation was a “sensible and pragmatic result” is hypocritical and absolutely astounding; given that One Nation would block its key economic plank of selling Western Power.

The utter lack of courage and conviction of the Liberal party was despicable. It was pragmatic alright but there was absolutely nothing sensible about it, and the electoral hiding that the party received was ample proof of it.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Liberals Refuse to Heed Lessons from WA Electoral Hiding**

The Turnbull government’s decision to change Section 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act was condemned by the Ethnic Communities Council of WA. The following is taken from its media release.

“ECCWA has always championed Free Speech but the Turnbull government’s proposal to supposedly strengthen Section 18C by substituting the words 'insult', 'offend' and 'humiliate' with 'harass', is repugnant and unconscionable. It’s beyond belief that this was announced on the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination”.

It is astounding that within 10 days of the Liberals receiving an colossal electoral hiding from WA voters for their unholy preference deal with One Nation (which espouses discriminatory policies), and within a day of announcing their statement on multiculturalism, Prime Minister Turnbull, sought to make the aforementioned changes”.

“Harass infers connotations such as pester, badger, persecute etc. all which involve repeated actions on the part of those who 'insult', 'offend' and 'humiliate'. Under the

current provisions of 18c such repeated actions are not required for the action to be punishable. Such a change will embolden the likes of Chris Nelson who was a member of the Liberal Party who posted the following on Facebook “Nova f\_ \_ \_ off. You were only endorsed by Julia because you were a black c\_ \_ \_ . Go back to the bush and suck on Witchity grubs and yams. Stop painting your f \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ face with white s\_ \_ \_ in parliament. Other than being a runner you are nothing”

“So Prime Minster, how many times must a person be 'insulted', 'offended' and 'humiliated' on the basis of their race, aboriginality etc. in the aforementioned manner before such actions are deemed to be harassment and the provisions of 18c are invoked? If according to Mr. Turnbull, multiculturalism is the glue that holds our society together, his proposed changes to 18c is the acetone, which will eliminate that glue.

Mr. Turnbull, boasts that we are the most successful multicultural society in the world, built on a society of mutual respect,” and if he is fair dinkum; how can he possibly justify making it legal to 'insult', 'offend' and 'humiliate' people on the basis of their race, ethnicity, aboriginality etc.?

Mr Turnbull has admitted that he did not have plans to change the Act when elected and throughout the 2016 federal election campaign he and his colleagues argued that this was not an issue of concern. So this is clearly not about high-profile cases involving Queensland University of Technology students and cartoonist Bill Leak but appeasing his backbenchers”.

“We commended Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce, who warned that, ‘essentially, voters are not concerned about section 18C but are more concerned about day to day issues and that the Coalition should stop talking about the issue’. The Liberals should heed his advice.”

“ECCWA welcomed the Government’s proposal to insert a ‘reasonable person’ test which will give the Human Rights Commission more power to knock back vexatious claims, or those with little prospect of success, at an earlier stage. We

recommended this change in our submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Free Speech.

However, there is no evidence that changes are required to section 18c and hence we campaigned vigorously to ensure these changes were not supported.

.....

## **Tipoffs, pay calculations and app downloads hit major milestones at Fair Work Ombudsman**

It has never been easier for Australian workers and their employers to obtain information or provide intelligence about their workplaces, with three of the Fair Work Ombudsman's newest online tools passing major milestones.

The Record My Hours app has recently been downloaded for the 10,000<sup>th</sup> time, while the agency's Anonymous Report function has received its 10,000<sup>th</sup> tip-off. And two years after it first went live, the public has now used the agency's mobile-friendly Pay and Conditions Tool (PACT) for more than 10 million calculations.

Fair Work Ombudsman Natalie James said the popularity of the three different online functions highlighted her agency's commitment to make it as easy as possible for Australians to understand and protect their workplace rights.

"We are glad to see these tools have been embraced by the public," Ms James said. "Whether you want to automatically record your hours at work, access information on your workplace rights and obligations or provide anonymous intelligence about a potential breach, our free tools are there to help."

The Record My Hours smartphone app, which uses geofencing technology to provide an automatic record of hours spent at work, has proven to be a strong success since it was launched two months ago.

"We've mapped it against some other federal government app downloads and this is one of the most popular," Ms James

said. Feedback from users of the app has been overwhelming positive.

"This is no surprise; as a worker, the app could save you hundreds or even thousands of dollars if you are concerned that you are not being paid your correct entitlements. Businesses are also encouraged to use it to complement, but not replace, their own records," Ms James said.

The agency appreciates feedback on the app and remains committed to enhancing and refining its features. Users can provide feedback via [app@fwo.gov.au](mailto:app@fwo.gov.au).

The Anonymous Report function was launched in May last year and has proven to be a valuable source of information helping the Agency confirm and identify trends.

Figures show that 65 per cent of people who have used the tool provided information about their current employment. "That's important, because we understand it can be hard to front up to your boss and make a complaint, so now workers can tell us their concerns without being identified," Ms James said. The hospitality sector has been the source of 35 per cent of tip-offs, the largest of any industry, with concerns about flat rates common.

"It helps us to target our effort exactly where the alleged non-compliance is. It also helps us build a profile of the types of businesses in certain areas that may also be non-compliant and to focus our proactive activity accordingly."

More than three-quarters (76 per cent) of the tip-offs have been about pay concerns. (Access information on the Glebe Point Road campaign here: <https://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2016-media-releases/november-2016/20161124-glebepointroad-campaign>)

For those looking to receive rather than provide information, the PACT has been a first point of call for reliable advice on wages and entitlements.

The tool has been accessed by almost 4.8 million users who have run more than 10 million calculations since it went live in May, 2015.

The tool combines pay, shift and leave calculators with an intuitive interface for mobile devices. It can locate the correct Modern Award for an employee's position and quickly determine what wages apply, including any overtime, penalty rates or allowances payable. Wages can be worked out per hour, per shift or for an entire pay period.

Ms James said the tool, while also accessible from desktop systems, had proven popular for the many businesses that don't operate from an office and can access pay rates without a computer or tying up their phone line.

"More than 40 per cent of PACT sessions have occurred on a mobile or tablet device," Ms James said.



## CHANGES TO COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELLING FOR FOOD INTRODUCED BY AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT

For many years, Australians have been demanding changes to origin claims on food labels – to be clearer, more meaningful, accurate and easier to find.

The Australian Government is introducing new food labels to make it clearer where the products you buy are grown, produced, made or packed.

Easy to understand labels will tell you at a glance where a product comes from, so

"The overall preference for going online is allowing our Infoline to focus on more complex telephone inquiries and to prioritise calls from small business."

PACT can also determine the entitlements payable when employees resign or are terminated, including wages in lieu of notice, leave and redundancy pay.

It is linked to another online tool, My Account, which enables employers and employees to save the advice they receive and review it at any time.

The **Record My Hours app** is available for download from iTunes or Google Play stores. The **Anonymous Report** function can be accessed at [www.fairwork.gov.au/tipoff](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/tipoff).

The **PACT** can be accessed at [www.calculate.fairwork.gov.au](http://www.calculate.fairwork.gov.au).

\*\*\*\*\*

you can make a clear and informed decision about the food you buy.

Most food produced, grown or made in Australia will have the kangaroo logo. Text and a bar chart will indicate the percentage of Australian ingredients.

Food that was packed in Australia will only feature a bar chart that shows the percentage of Australian ingredients. For imported foods, the label will clearly show the country of origin.

To see the new food labels, read the fact sheet or watch the animated information video, click the [link](#) below which will take you to information in a number of languages including; English, Arabic, Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Korean, Greek, Italian, Spanish, Filipino, and Hindi.

[foodlabels.industry.gov.au/campaign.html#cald](http://foodlabels.industry.gov.au/campaign.html#cald)

**See what you're getting.**

## Perth Commemorates Africa Day



On Saturday 20 May this year, African communities in Perth commemorated the 54<sup>th</sup> Africa Liberation Day.

Africa Liberation Day, simply known as Africa Day, is an annual commemoration of the founding of the African Union on 25 May 1963 in Addis Ababa. It is a day of both celebration and reflection on the achievements of Africans; and their efforts to create a fairer, prosperous and peaceful continent. Since adoption, the day has been celebrated by African communities around the world.

In his speech of the day, Joe Tuazama – President of the Organisation of African Communities (OAC) of WA emphasised on the positive contributions made and being made by African communities in the state. Mr Tuazama acknowledged some of the challenges especially facing the African youth and called on the government to show commitment and support.

The event was attended by more than 350 people from African and non-African backgrounds, among whom the Hon. Paul Papalia and Tony Krsticevic respectively representing the government and the opposition.

Event organisers received little sponsorship, but gratefully acknowledged the generous financial sponsorship from the Ethnic Communities' Council of Western Australia, officially represented by its president Ramdas Sankaran OAM.

OAC looks forward to celebrating the cause of Africa in future events.

ECCWA looks forward to working with Joe Tuazama and his board members to achieve the common objectives of our respective membership.

## 3rd May Constitution Day

Polish Association of WA organised the commemoration of 3rd May Constitution Day and ECCWA was represented by Ramdas Sankaran.

In his speech the Polish Ambassador, Mr. Pavel Milewski informed participants that this year marks the 226<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the May 3 Constitution – the first constitution in modern Europe and the second in the world, following America's Founding Principles



Left to Right Ramdas, Halina Szunejko and Danuta Palysz



Polish Language School children performing at the event.

## Interested in part or full time work?

Could you work in a school? Can you see yourself as a Cleaner? Starting in July, North Metropolitan TAFE will run a one semester course on the skills required to be a successful school gardener/handyman or cleaner.

In addition, we will support you in applying for work in a school as a gardener/handyman or cleaner.

### Gardening and cleaning course will include:

- Time management
- Safe work practices
- Plant knowledge
- Gardening procedures e.g. planting, fertilising, watering
- Use of gardening equipment e.g. ride on mowers, whipper snippers
- School specific equipment e.g. line marking machines
- Basic reticulation repair
- Use of hand tools
- Chemical use
- Use of cleaning equipment e.g. rotary polishers
- Record keeping
- Much more!

### Entry requirements:

- Strong work ethic
- Good oral and written communication
- Must be able to read procedures, safety sheets and chemical bottles
- Successful completion of an entry interview
- Working With Children Check and a Police Clearance

### Course details:

- 3 days per week - Starts Wednesday 19th July Finishes Friday 24 November (17 weeks)
- Days - Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 9:15 until 2:45
- Cost - \$169.74 (course fee for 20 weeks) based in Leederville and on site

If you are interested in this course then please email: Chris Hodson  
chris.hodson@nmtafe.wa.edu.au

## Volunteer of the Year Awards



**Pius Joseph, ECCWA board member, Ramdas Sankaran ECCWA President, Sahra Abdi, Rebecca Ball, Executive Director OMI and Rajyashree Malaviya**

### Rajyashree Malaviya recipient of the Western Australian Volunteer Award for Multicultural Communities

Rajyashree Malaviya has contributed a quarter of a century to the lives of members of the Indian community in WA. She established two prominent Indian not-for-profit groups that ensure the Perth Indian community can stay in touch with their culture, while promoting multiculturalism and diversity. She has worked with schools to foster multicultural understanding and awareness, and assisted migrant women to explore avenues for education and employment.

Rajyashree's commitment, dedication and always smiling face coupled with her hard work, attitude, personality, capacity to lead and resolve issues, wins the hearts and respect from all who come into contact with her.

### Sahra Abdi recipient of the Western Australian Youth Volunteer of the Year

Sahra Abdi is an outstanding example of a young woman who cares deeply for the community by working tirelessly to help others. She dedicates her free time to assist Syrian refugee families to settle in as new Western Australians by providing goods, friendship, outings and community connections. By reaching out to these families, Sahra has demonstrated what is truly wonderful about Australian values: sharing friendship with those in need. She undertakes her volunteer work with personal drive and resourcefulness that get things done in addition to her working full-time. A dynamic young woman making a huge difference to refugee families. **ECCWA congratulates Sahra and Rajyashree.**

## **ECCWA Management Committee Members Meet with Senator Zed Seselja**

The Hon. Dean Smith, Senator for Western Australia organised a meeting between ECCWA management committee members meet and the Assistant Minister for Multicultural Affairs the Hon. Senator Zed Seselja at his West Perth office.

The Minister outlined the changes to the Australian Citizenship eligibility requirements that were being proposed by the Turnbull government.

In the discussion that followed ECC representatives raised a number of issues including the following:

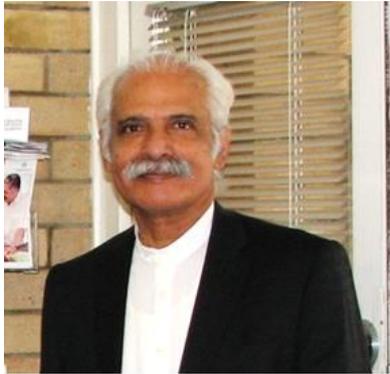
- The Impact of the Syrian Conflict on Australians with families still in Syria especially Persecuted Minorities trapped in Syria.
- Proposed Changes to Section 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act
- Proposed Changes to the Australian Citizenship Test
- Inadequacy of funding for Multicultural Mental Health esp. Suicide Prevention.
- Multicultural Policy Document release
- Harmony Day vs Harmony Week events
- Use of the term “Tolerance” and issues therein
- Interaction between Aboriginal and CaLD communities

Whilst ECCWA won't always agree with Senator Dean Smith, or indeed any other parliamentarian, on every issue, we have great respect for the courteous and respectful way Senator Smith has involved ethnic communities in representing the interests of WA. We look forward to continuing the dialogue on Citizenship and other issues in the coming months.



**From left to right-Jim Seth, Ramdas Sankaran, Suresh Rajan, Gabi Ghasseb, Zed Seselja, Iren Hunyadi, Alphonse Mulumba and Dean Smith**

## President's Musings



After eight years of being sidelined by Ministers for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests in the Barnett government, I am pleased to say that within days of the election of the McGowan Labor government and the appointment of the Hon Paul Papalia as the Minister of Citizenship and Multicultural Interests, the political marginalisation of the Ethnic Communities Council of WA (ECCWA) is well and truly over.

Whilst ECCWA is yet to discuss let alone receive any assurances from the Minister that its core funding would be restored, it is hard to imagine that the McGowan government would continue the institutional racism that was perpetuated by the Barnett government in the way it treated ECCWA's funding compared to mainstream peak organisations.

For decades, state governments of both persuasions have been funding ECCWA to perform its role as the sector's peak body and there is no other organisation that performs this role in WA. ECCWA was the only organisation in WA that publicly took the Turnbull government to task for its proposed changes to the eligibility criteria for Australian Citizenship as well as the Citizenship Test. There are many more examples of ECCWA being the lone public voice that has sought to hold governments both state and federal as well as other agencies publicly accountable on matters of concern to ethnic minorities. This is precisely why all other state and territory governments provide funding for their ECCs.

**We are therefore quietly confident that ECCWA's funding will be restored, hopefully in the McGowan government's first budget at the very latest.**

ECCWA will continue to work collaboratively with other peaks to ensure that the needs, concerns, aspirations etc. of its constituency are effectively addressed. However, it is pertinent to note that the vast majority of issues that adversely impact on ethnic minorities that were raised by ECCWA in its State election manifesto were not raised by other peaks. This observation is not a criticism of other peaks **but it underscores the importance of ensuring that ECCWA is adequately funded by the state government.**

ECCWA was excluded from the Ministerial Multicultural Advisory mechanisms during the Barnett government and we strongly believe that also will soon change. ECCWA will use this mechanism to raise issues of concern to ethnic minorities and lobby for changes to be made to effectively address them.

We have always advocated and argued for bi partisanship on matters of significance to ethnic communities and we had it until the Barnett government was elected. We strongly believe that also will soon change with the appointment of Mr Antonio (Tony) Krsticevic as Shadow Minister for Local Government; Heritage; Culture and the Arts; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests. As mentioned in an earlier article we are particularly pleased with Tony's appointment for he once was a member of the management committee of the Ethnic Communities Council of Western Australia and knows firsthand the value of the work it does unlike his two predecessors.