



Ethnic Communities Council of Western Australia



Annual Report

2016 - 2017

ECCWA International Women's Day Celebrations 2017



Ms. Freeman with Hanifa Deen



Ms. Janine Freeman MLA with Jenny Au Yeong and with Chelli Rajagopalan

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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

Australian Red Cross
Bendigo Bank, North Perth
Black Swan Health
BreastScreen WA
City of Belmont
City of Stirling
City of Vincent
Department of Social Services (Commonwealth)
Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia
Ishar Multicultural Women's Health Centre
Joondalup and Wanneroo Multicultural Services Inc.
Multicultural Services Centre of Western Australia
Richmond Wellbeing
Umbrella Multicultural Care Services Inc.

Peak bodies

ECCWA is a member of the following peak bodies and extends its appreciation for the support and assistance it received during 2016-17.

- Community Employers Western Australia
- Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia
- Refugee Council of Australia

ECCWA Consultants Panel

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.

- Emeritus Professor Laksiri Jayasuriya,
- Ms Helen Cattalini, Former Commissioner, Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission
- Dr. Leela de Mel, (Former Executive Director of OMI)
- Shobhana Chakrabarti, (Former CEO, Ishar)
- Jenny Au Yeong, (Former CEO, EDAC)
- Dr. Indira Pattni, (Management Consultant and Clinical Psychologist)

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 (without a single cent of funding from the state government) as detailed in the report that follows are ample testimony of its resilience and its determination to ensure that its core funding is restored by the state government.

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.

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

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 of this society
- Equitable access to, and an equitable share of, the resources of this State
- Diversity and co-existence.

ECCWA Values and Principles

In working towards its vision the Ethnic Communities Council WA encompasses 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 stakeholders and the community.

Membership of ECCWA's Management Committee

Office bearers

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| President: | Ramdas Sankaran OAM |
| Sr. Vice President: | Kim Luby |
| Secretary: | Rahim Ghauri |
| Treasurer- | Suresh Rajan |
| Vice President (Women) | Jane Mansaray |
| Vice President (Youth) | Nasreen Lang |

Management Committee

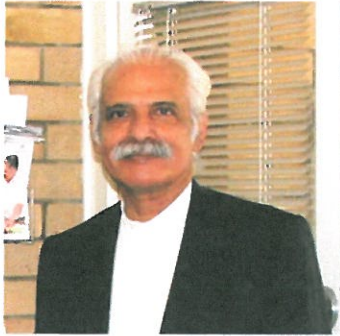
The following members were elected at the 2016 AGM

Carmelita Baltazar
Iren Hunyadi
Pius Joseph
Ranjit Ratnayake
Jan Williams
Gabi Ghaseb
Yahye Sheikh-Abdi
Alphonse Toussaint

ECCWA Management Committee Involvement in External Committees/Taskforces

- Disabled Persons Organisation National Council
- Epilepsy Australia (Vice President till December 2016)
- Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia Executive Committee
- National Ethnic Disability Alliance
- NDIA Perth Hills Advisory Group
- NDIA Perth Hills CaLD Reference Group (Chair)
- Osborne Park Hospital Consumer Advisory Council
- People with Disability Australia (Treasurer)
- Services Sustainability Network of the Migrant and Refugee Sector
- Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital Consumer Advisory Council
- University of Western Australia-Diversity Inclusion and Diversity Committee and CaLD Strategy Group (chair)
- WACOSS Election Taskforce
- WACOSS Peaks Forum

President's Report



It is very pleasing that 2016-17 was a productive year for ECCWA. Whilst it continued to make significant advances with regard to the three priority areas of addressing Organisational Issues to enhance the effectiveness, transparency and accountability of its operations; enhancing its Advocacy/Lobbying and Policy monitoring and development capacity and improving its financial health, it is very disappointing that its core grant is yet to be restored.

I have on many occasions said that politicians and bureaucrats can cease our funding but neither can stop ECCWA from voicing vigorously, the concerns of CaLD communities publicly. Despite having to operate without paid staff, as you will note from the annual report much has been achieved with regard to the three priority areas.

In organising the state Pre-Election Forum, and arranging its live streaming through FaceBook and its coverage by WTV, ECCWA did what other ECCs and most mainstream peak bodies have not done in fulfilling its advocacy and lobbying remits.

Whilst ECCWA's core funding is yet to be restored, the response of Mr Papalia has been positive to date. He also appointed me in the capacity of the President of ECCWA to his Ministerial Advisory Group. The responses of several cabinet members to our issues have also been positive and I am also pleased to advise that Tim Fraser, the Chief of Staff of Minister Papalia and Kim Ellwood, the current Executive Director of the Office of Multicultural Interests (OMI) have been very supportive of ECCWA. So ECCWA can look forward to working collaboratively with the current government and OMI in achieving our common objectives.

As you will note from the summary of program reports in the sections that follow, ECCWA has raised many important issues of concern to our constituency. Arguably the most important one was the suicide deaths that have occurred within ethnic communities since January this year. ECCWA has already drawn this to the attention of the Minister for Health, the Mental Health Commissioner and the Chairperson of the Ministerial Suicide Prevention Council. If such suicides continue at the current rate, ECCWA will request the Coroner to conduct an Inquiry into it.

I extend my special thanks to all management committee members and in particular to Kim Luby, (Senior Vice President), Rahim Ghauri (Secretary), Suresh Rajan (Treasurer), Jane Mansaray (Vice President Women's Issues) and Nasreen Lang (Vice President Youth Issues).

Listed in the Acknowledgments section of this report are a number of agencies as well as individuals who have provided our Council invaluable support and assistance. I extend our special thanks to all of them.

As always I end with special thanks to our partners and family members for their support and understanding. But for the added responsibilities that they have so graciously accepted, our goal to serve ECCWA and the community the way we do, would never have been realised.

Ramdas Sankaran OAM

Summary of Program Reports

1 POLICY, ADVOCACY & LOBBYING PROGRAM

To ensure 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.

ECCWA sought to achieve the above through its efforts to enhance the participation of ERM and CaLD people in the decision making processes of government and community as well as through its efforts to enhance equitable access of ERM and CaLD people to programs and services provided/funded by governments at the national, state and local levels.

Some notable events/initiatives include the following:

1.1 State Elections 2017-

1.1.1 Pre-Election Public Forum

ECCWA organised the above on 8th February 2017 at Multicultural House, 20 View Street, N. Perth. The ALP was represented by the Hon. Roger Cook, Shadow Minister for Health, and Deputy Leader of the Opposition, representing the Leader Mr. Mark McGowan & Ms. Margaret Quirk, Shadow Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests. The Greens (WA) were represented by Ms. Alison Xamon, former member and candidate for the Legislative Council and Ms. Rafeif Ismail, candidate for the seat of Mirrabooka. Unfortunately, the Liberal and National Parties chose not to participate. The Forum was well attended and streamed live on FaceBook. It was also covered by WTV and it was subsequently broadcast on their Under Current program.

ECCWA launched its Election Manifesto based on a framework encompassing Multiculturalism, Substantive Equality and Social Cohesion. It included the following:

a) **Multiculturalism Act**

An Act along the lines of what Victoria and Queensland have (i.e. The *Multicultural Victoria Act 2011* and *Queensland Multicultural Recognition Act 2016*) should be introduced. This should explore consideration of the provisions of the Religious Intolerance Act in Victoria.

b) **Quarterly Meetings between Minister for Multicultural Interests and ECCWA**

The Minister for Multicultural Interests met with ECCWA on a quarterly basis to discuss issues of concern to the sector before the election of the Barnett government and this needs to be restored.

c) **Reformation of OMI**

Create an Advisory Council as part of proposed Act to oversee a new Office/ Commission whose operational foci will be policy development, monitoring of Equity plans etc. and not to take over the functions of other departments e.g. ethnic schools as OMI has. Such an Office can function effectively with about 8 FTEs and the savings accrued will easily cover the initiatives proposed in this manifesto.

d) **Peak Body Funding**

Restore Funding of ECCWA as a peak body on similar lines as in all other states and territories. The Australian government's increasing emphasis on consumer directed care which provides choice and control to consumers is long overdue and most welcome. Unfortunately, in the process, competition in the delivery of community services is becoming increasingly fierce and that is unhealthy for consumers because it threatens the viability of medium and small organisations that are responsible for the diversity of choice that's available to the consumer. Under these circumstances the need for effective systemic

advocacy across all sectors within the community services industry is paramount. Advocacy has to be independent of service provision for it to be meaningful, accountable and effective. From a substantive equality perspective, ECCWA believes that an Ethnic peak body should get much more than \$100,000 per year which was the level of funding provided to ECCWA annually until 6 years ago. It also believes that a figure of \$150,000 pa would be a good start and it should be subjected to the same terms as the funding provided to other peak bodies by the state government.

e) Substantive Equality Unit

CaLD representation in government boards and other decision making bodies is woefully inadequate as evidenced by the statistics provided in Parliament by the Executive Director of OMI in June last year and that situation has hardly changed since. The above unit was disbanded by the Barnett government and if it cannot be re-established alternative mechanisms should be explored to ensure the achievement of substantive equality objectives.

f) Language Services Policy and the Charter of Multiculturalism

These policies are not being implemented adequately or effectively and most importantly not being monitored at all. This should be a priority for the incoming government.

g) Anti-Racism Strategy

The One Nation Party's racist ideology has received a significant fillip with 4 senators and with more than \$1.6 million being allocated to it by the AEC as the initial payment for the primary votes it attracted. With the election/re-election of some non-major party senators, the push to repeal Section 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act has gained momentum. These taxpayer funded "racist" initiatives need to be countered effectively and all levels of government and societal institutions and a well-funded anti-racism strategy should be implemented to achieve that objective.

h) Multicultural Clinical Mental Health Services

The woeful inadequacy of the above should be addressed as a matter of urgency. The Transcultural mental health unit should be re-established and funded adequately to operate as a State wide unit. Lack of CaLD suicide prevention programs is also of major concern and should be addressed.

i) Funding of Community Languages

The changes made by the Barnett government are not in the best interests of ensuring quality teaching/learning of community languages. The funding for this program should be substantially increased and its implementation should revert to the Education Department. The Italian Insertion Program should be refunded and the Ethnic Schools Association should be funded to provide communities who wish to participate in this program.

j) Domestic and Family Violence

Family violence is of growing concern not just within the wider community but increasingly so amongst the CaLD communities. Whilst culturally and linguistically appropriate support and advocacy services for victims are critical, funding should also be available for programs that focus on perpetrators to diminish the prevalence of such violence.

k) Housing & Homelessness

Homelessness and the lack of affordable housing especially for large families are of serious concern.

l) Multicultural Disability and aged care services

The above services are woefully underfunded and the service gaps should be addressed urgently

m) Parenting Programs

The lack of culturally and linguistically appropriate parenting programs is of serious concern and needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency.

n) Services for migrants and refugees resident in Australia for more than 5 years

People in the above category are not eligible for Commonwealth's Settlement Services Program and the state government should explore how best their needs can be met.

o) Community Arts

The above is woefully underfunded and the closure of Kulcha has made the situation worse. This needs to be addressed urgently.

p) Services for CaLD population in Regional and Rural Areas

A comprehensive strategy should be developed to better address the needs of the above.

ECCWA has decided to adopt a two pronged approach to pursue the aforementioned issues of concern to CaLD communities and to obtain as much information as possible to enable them to exercise their franchise in an informed manner. It pursued issues of particular relevance to CaLD communities through its own election campaign and pursued broader issues that impact the wider community including CaLD communities through its membership of the Peaks Forum auspiced by WACOSS.

1.1.2 Peaks Forum

ECCWA was a member of the Election Campaign Working Group of the Peaks Forum which developed an Election Campaign Strategy proposal. The campaign was intended to provide a framework that supports and enables Peaks and their members to link their own events, statements and lobbying efforts in line with shared campaign messaging.

WACOSS which auspices the Peaks Forum committed \$10,000 to the campaign and ECCWA contributed \$1,000 towards the campaign costs.

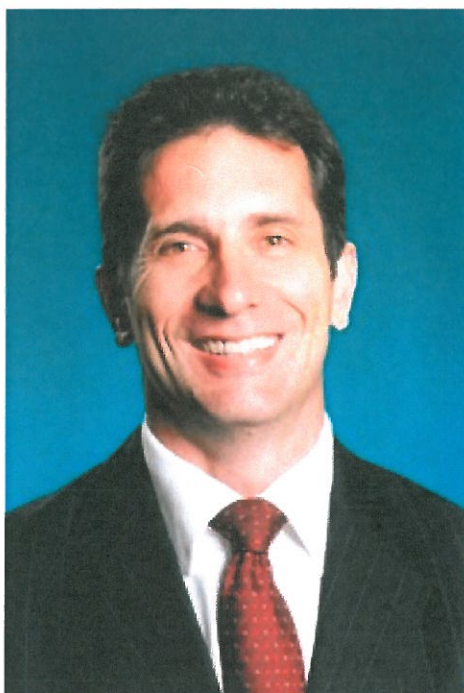
As a member of the Peaks Forum that is auspiced by WACOSS, ECCWA strongly supported the following priorities that were identified:

- **Poverty** (addressing inequality, income and wealth)
- **Housing & Homelessness** (including affordable and accessible social housing and homelessness services)
- **Community Health** (including mental health, alcohol and other drugs, Aboriginal health)
- **Justice** (including the Social Reinvestment WA campaign priorities)
- **Children, young people & families** (including early childhood development)
- **Family and Domestic Violence** (including WA Safe Systems campaign)

In addressing these priorities ECCWA firmly believe that the current government should take into account the impact of a number of events within and outside Australia which have resulted in increasing anti-ethnic and anti-religious sentiments as well as prejudice which has made life difficult for the LGBTI community, thanks to the divisiveness and pejorative nature of the Marriage Equality debate.

In this context ECCWA strongly recommends the implementation of the Anti-Racism strategy that is identified under the ECCWA Election Issues in order to promote a just, equitable and harmonious society. With NDIS and Aged care adopting the person centred/consumer directed care model which has/will result in a significant increase in the number of service providers including private profit entities, the relevant authorities will not be able to continue to maintain their rigorous audit/compliance regime.

1.2 Minister Papalia's Ministerial Advisory Group (MAG)



Hon. Paul Papalia CSC, MLA

The ECCWA president was invited to become a member of the Ministers Multicultural Advisory Group. The Multicultural Advisory Group (MAG) is a consultative body to the Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests on issues facing culturally and linguistically diverse communities in Western Australia and in his invitation the Minister indicated that he was looking forward to working with the Group on a range of important issues that impact our culturally and linguistically diverse communities and our multicultural State.

The Minister's invitation was readily accepted as it was a welcome departure from the practice of the previous government and he should be commended for his openness and participatory approach as reflected by his gesture asking Group members to obtain the views of their constituency on the Groups draft Terms of Reference. This also is a welcome departure from the past where the activities of such a mechanism were largely kept secret

1.3 WA NDIS-Agreement entered into by Messrs Barnett and Porter

After speaking to the CEOs of the Fremantle Multicultural Centre and Chung Wah and confirming that they and the Multicultural Services Centre (which are the only multicultural disability services providers registered with NDIA and DSC) and attending two forums organised by people with disabilities, the ECCWA President wrote to the Hon. Stephen Dawson before the election in his capacity as the Shadow Minister for Disability Services and after the election in his capacity as the Minister for the same expressing the hope that he will be recommending to the Premier and his cabinet colleagues to abandon forthwith the philosophically unconscionable and economically foolish aforementioned NDIS agreement.

The rationale we provided included the following:

"The WA NDIS is based on 39,097 West Australians being eligible and the most reliable actuarial estimate is 50,000. If this turns out to be the case about 11,000 West Australians with significant disabilities will miss out on the NDIS unless the WA government pumps further cash into addressing their needs. There is absolutely no justification for the WA government to meet the administration costs which are being met by the Commonwealth in all other jurisdictions or agree to underwrite 75 per cent of any cost over-runs, when this risk is capped at 25 per cent in all other jurisdictions.

The so called evaluation report of the state and commonwealth trials which supposedly found that the DSC approach and outcomes were better was based on interviewing only 21 individuals from an estimated population of 39000 (and possibly up to 50,000) people living with disability in WA. Such a sample clearly cannot be representative in any sense of the word. To add insult to injury, the evaluation apparently covered 65 disability service providers which makes you wonder whose interests the evaluation was seeking to promote and safeguard, especially given the philosophies of consumer directed care, choice and control, reasonable and necessary etc.

If the decision to opt for the WA NDIS model was based on WA consumers getting a better deal, we respectfully suggested that the state government consider using the resources it

would need to cover the 100% administration cost and the 75% risk provisions that it would need to implement the WA NDIS model in the following manner:

- a) Set up a policy unit within your portfolio or the Premier's to closely monitor the commonwealth's implementation of the NDIS in WA. This will address the so-called concerns about the deficiencies of the NDIS being administered from Geelong. (The simple truth is that NDIA in WA is very ably led by Marita Walker who has a distinguished career in the disability service sector including DSC, and its service delivery has been very inclusive and effective under her leadership and that of her two senior staff Kerry Stopher and Mary Ashe who are also very experienced in this sector and a very culturally and linguistically diverse staff.
- b) Use some of the hundreds of millions saved by not having to meet the aforementioned costs and risks, to address the gaps in service provision that may arise from the commonwealth's implementation of the scheme.

1.4 Suicide the Silent Killer within indigenous and ethnic communities

ECCWA drew 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 numbers of suicides that occurred in Perth between January and May 2017 that staff of the Multicultural Services Centre of Western Australia drew to our attention.

Some of the people who committed suicide are not proficient in English and have no access to clinical multicultural mental health services or services which use interpreters to provide 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 have been woefully inadequate. Sadly the Office of Multicultural Interests had little or no influence on this matter during the term of the Barnett government.

Twelve 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 unaddressed. 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

1.5 Partnership Forum

On 15th June Premier Mark McGowan and Minister McGurk met with a cross section of NFP service providers, to initiate discussions on implementing the government's Supporting Communities Policy and to outline their priorities.

Multicultural agencies were excluded from the Barnett government's 22 member Partnership Forum and unfortunately no multicultural organisations were invited to the aforementioned meeting.

ECCWA raised this issue with Ministers Papalia and McGurk and with a senior officer of the Department of Cabinet as well as with the Chiefs of Staff of the aforementioned Ministers. Feedback from these meetings/correspondence would suggest that when this Forum is restructured it will have representation from the multicultural sector.

1.6 Meeting with Senator Zed Seselja

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



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

1.7 Royal commission into institutional responses to child sexual abuse

The Royal Commission hosted a multicultural forum for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds in Perth on Wednesday July 20th. ECCWA did not attend the event but we raised with the Commission via email, an issue of serious concern which is currently not being addressed. The issue is about the alleged sexual abuse of children prior to their migration to Australia. We were aware of one such case and it is possible there are many more and the Police were unable to address this issue on the basis that it did not occur in Australia.

1.8 Senate Inquiry on proposed changes to the Racial Discrimination Act

ECCWA strongly opposed the proposed changes to the Racial Discrimination with the exception of the proposed changes to overhaul the way the Human Rights Commission handles complaints under the Act, by inserting a "reasonable person" test and giving the commission more power to knock back vexatious claims, or those with little prospect of success, at an earlier stage. ECCWA argued in its oral submission any changes to the Racial Discrimination Act should be evidence based and there is absolutely no evidence that changes are required to section 18c especially given the substantial exemptions to 18c which section 18d of the Act provides, as copied below.

Exemptions

Section 18C does not render unlawful anything said or done reasonably and in good faith:

- a) in the performance, exhibition or distribution of an artistic work; or
- b) in the course of any statement, publication, discussion or debate made or held for any genuine academic, artistic or scientific purpose or any other genuine purpose in the public interest; or
- (c) in making or publishing:
 - (i) a fair and accurate report of any event or matter of public interest; or
 - (ii) a fair comment on any event or matter of public interest if the comment is an expression of a genuine belief held by the person making the comment.

Section 18C was added to the Racial Discrimination Act in 1995 and makes it illegal to offend, insult, humiliate or intimidate on the basis of a person's race and neither the Parliamentary Committee nor conservative commentators have provided concrete evidence on how it has curbed free speech in the last 22 years.

Pauline Hanson's abhorrent politically opportunistic "Pray4MuslimBan".online video was released less than 24 hours after the recent terrorism act in London and before the people who lost their lives were buried. She referred to the London Mayor's Muslim background and tied it to his reference to "terrorist attacks are part and parcel of a big city"; but conveniently/deliberately chose not to mention that he also said,

"London is the greatest city in the world, and we stand together in the face of those who seek to harm us and our way of life. We always have and always will. Londoners will never be cowed by terrorism. I want to reassure all Londoners, and all our visitors not to be alarmed. It is my job to try and make sure that we are as safe as can be. We have got to be prepared for these sorts of things to happen when people least expect them. That means being vigilant, having a police force that is in touch with communities, it means the security forces being ready, but it also means exchanging ideas and best practice."

This was by no means a fair and accurate report of any event or matter of public interest. Yet Section 18c had no impact on Ms Hanson's aforementioned action presumably because of the incredibly broad exemptions provided in section 18d. So ECCWA argued that the Prime Minister's insistence that his proposed changes to the Racial Discrimination Act will strengthen the law rather than undermine it, is repugnant, unconscionable and clearly not evidence based. It's beyond belief his proposed changes were announced on the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, a day on which the world commemorates the Sharpeville Massacre. He owes indigenous and ethnic communities an unreserved apology for this.

1.9 Citizenship Teleconference

ECCWA participated in the Citizenship Teleconference that was organised by the ALP featuring Hon Tony Burke Shadow Minister for Multicultural Affairs to discuss community concerns about the Commonwealth government's proposed changes to eligibility for Australian Citizenship.

1.10 Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants

ECCWA hosted a community consultation on behalf of the Australian Human Rights Commission when the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants, Mr. François Crépeau, visited Perth. Mr Crépeau is an independent human rights expert appointed by the UN Human Rights Council and his role is to examine ways and means to overcome obstacles to the full and effective protection of the human rights of all migrants.



The Rapporteur's mandate encompasses all people on the move, including migrants, refugees and people seeking asylum. During his visit to Australia, the Rapporteur was seeking information on human rights issues which affect:

- Refugees and people seeking asylum in Australia
- Migrant workers (in particular low-skilled migrant workers)

The well attended consultation provided the Rapporteur a range of feedback on the above.

1.11 Amnesty International

ECCWA representatives met with Leonie Alexander, Branch President Amnesty, Western Australia and Richa Malaviya to discuss issues of common concern. Leonie advised that her Branch Committee will be holding a planning meeting shortly and would discuss some of the ideas on collaboration that we explored. She has also contacted the national team to discuss Amnesty WA's endorsement of a statement encouraging social cohesion, supporting religious freedom and urging an end to government and media conflation of religion and terrorism.

1.12 Changes Proposed to the Current Arrangements in relation to Limited Registration

The Italo Australia Welfare and Cultural Centre (an ECCWA member organisation) makes applications for Limited Registrations for teachers as the supplier of Italian Language teachers to educational venues and across the educational sector.

ECCWA successfully lobbied the Minister for Education Hon Sue Ellery to cease the proposed changes to the long standing arrangements by which Italo Australia Welfare and Cultural Centre undertook the above.

1.13 Research- Reducing Health Disparities in Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Populations

- ECCWA was approached to participate in an ARC Linkage Project which Dr Roanna Lobo, from Curtin University has submitted a funding application for. ECCWA won't contribute financially and its role would be limited to publicising the project, encouraging people to participate and also participate in the steering committee.

- **Refugee Women Health**

The health and wellbeing of refugee women is important and there can be many difficulties in accessing health care. Language, culture and financial problems can influence the results. A better understanding of the experiences of refugee women could lead to improvements in this area. The project involved free health assessment and consultations on issues such as stress, nutrition, health and illness, work and unemployment, family life, sleep, exercise, transport, lifestyle, as well as body health and function. The sessions would be held in the nearest community health centre and women will be reimbursed travel costs to and from the centre. ECCWA will publicise the project and encourage people to participate.

1.14 Work with Media

Several issues that we covered with regard to policy, advocacy and lobbying were reflected in our media releases. These are referred to under the section "Work with Media" on page 23 of this report. Our media releases can also be accessed from our website.

1.15 Refugee Council of Australia Annual Consultations (RCOA)

As in the previous year ECCWA and MSCWA in partnership with RCOA organised two consultations that focussed on key issues including Australia's Refugee and Humanitarian Program, Australia's asylum policies, Settlement support for all humanitarian entrants etc.

One of the forums was for service providers and ethnic associations and the other was for individual refugee and humanitarian entrant.

1.16 Parking for Interpreters

IPIA a member organisation sought ECCWA's assistance to raise the issue of parking for those who provide interpreting services for the Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital (SCGH) with its management. Thanks to IPIA putting pressure on the management of the public hospitals to obtain cost free or subsidised parking for interpreters, RPH and Fremantle Hospital now provide them the option of PAYG at 0.72c an hour, and Fiona Stanley Hospital offers them parking for the whole day at \$3.70. The Dental Hospital, OPH and BH provide free parking and that leaves SCGH as the only hospital yet to address this issue. Given what the other hospitals have done, ECCWA believed it is fair and reasonable for SCGH to follow suit and took this issue up with the Hospital management to reconsider its stance.

1.17 Aged Care Issues-Seniors Housing

ECCWA responded to the Seniors Housing Strategy: Discussion Paper which was released by the Hon Brendon Grylls MLA, Minister for Housing; Racing and Gaming and the Hon Paul Miles MLA Minister for Local Government; Community Services; Seniors and Volunteering; Youth.

ECCWA's detailed submission:

- Commended the Minister for Housing and the Housing Authority for releasing this comprehensive discussion paper which accords this matter the priority it deserves;
- Endorsed the eight principles in the Strategy document especially "Diversity and Choice i.e. Increase housing choice for seniors with innovative product, tenure and service offerings that cater to local and regional need"; and
- Agreed with the view expressed in the Seniors Housing Strategy discussion paper that "Seniors face unique challenges in accessing stable housing post-retirement, which are not experienced by younger age groups".

We provided responses to the following topics

- Downsizing
- Better Design
- Affordability
- Regional Communities
- Understanding Options

In concluding we argued that ECCWA believes that seniors housing cannot be addressed in isolation of other factors that impact on their health and wellbeing. Due consideration should be given to inter alia:

- Keeping Older People Connected and Active;
- Protecting the Rights of Older People esp. from the perspectives of Elder Abuse , Ageism and Discrimination;
- Ageing in Place;
- labour market strategies that keep seniors from CaLD and indigenous backgrounds working as long as they are able to, as well as strategies that promote the work-life balance, and the role of family caring;
- Ensuring their optimal physical and mental health
- Promoting an aged care workforce that is well equipped to address the needs of our ageing population in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner.

ECCWA also believes there is much room for innovation and housing solutions should include the ones we have already referred to in this submission plus housing models such as

the Abbeyfield and co-ownership and or co-renting options with relevant support from community services providers. ECCWA is willing to elaborate on these options as required.

1.18 International Women's Day

ECCWA celebrated International Women's Day event on 8th 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. 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 broadcast 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

1.19 Joint Parliamentary Inquiry into Migrant Settlement Outcomes

In its submission ECCWA commended the parliament for initiating this inquiry but expressed its regrets that its timing is somewhat unfortunate given the:

- Recent establishment of the Humanitarian Settlement Program (HSP) through the merger of the Humanitarian Settlement Services program and the Complex Case Management program;
- Commencement of the tender process for the same in November 2017

ECCWA strongly recommended that the tender process be paused until this Inquiry is completed so that its findings can inform the future of this very important program especially since successful applicants are to be given a 5+5 year period to implement it. ECCWA provided detailed responses to the following specific terms of reference of the Inquiry:

- a) “The mix, coordination and extent of settlement services available and the effectiveness of these services in promoting better settlement outcomes for migrants”
- b) “The national and international best practice strategies for improving migrant settlement outcomes and prospects;”
- c) “The importance of English language ability on a migrant’s, or prospective migrant’s, settlement outcome;”
- d) “Whether current migration processes adequately assess a prospective migrant’s settlement prospects;”

Other related matters covered by our submission included:

- a) “Adequacy of the Migration Act 1958 character test provisions as a means to address issues/ behaviour arising from social engagement of youth migrants, including involvement of youth migrants in anti-social behaviour such as gang activity”
- b) Social Cohesion
- c) Systemic Advocacy
- d) Family Migration
- e) Citizenship

Recommendations:

ECCWA urged the Inquiry Committee to consider the following recommendations:

- a) Pause the HSP Tender process until this parliamentary inquiry is completed
- b) Extend the current HSP and CCM contracts with service providers till the Inquiry findings are able to inform the HSP tender.
- c) Use the Job Active Tender procurement and fee structure model with the commonwealth determining the fees for the provision of various components of the HSP and then choosing the agencies that demonstrate their ability to achieve the program outcomes.
- d) Extend the 5 year cut off period of Settlement services to enable those who are not proficient in English to access them or create a new program perhaps jointly funded by the state and commonwealth to address their unmet needs.

- e) With all SGP program grants now scheduled to come to an end at the same time, DSS should ensure that all service providers are given equal opportunities to provide services in locations they are well equipped to do so to enable clients with multiple needs met to have them met without having to go to more than one service provider.
- f) Re-establish Settlement planning structures in all states and territories and ensure that they include service providers.
- g) Explore as a matter of urgency how best ethno specific agencies can be involved in the provision of settlement services, especially given the commonwealth emphasis on “consumer directed care” and concepts such as choice and control.
- h) Remove the exemption from the Disability Discrimination Act that the Immigration Act currently enjoys in order to end the discrimination against prospective migrants with disabilities or with family members who have disabilities.
- i) Redraft the provisions of the Character Test to make them reasonable and responsive to circumstances that impact not just on the individual concerned, but their family too and to ensure that they comply with natural justice and procedural fairness.
- j) Ensure the retention of Section 18 C of the Racial Discrimination Act in its current form.
- k) Replace the Commonwealth’s Access and Equity Plans with Substantive Equality Plans and urge it to enter into agreements with state and territory governments to ensure that all government agencies report how they have fulfilled their Substantive Equality obligations.
- l) Cease the celebration of Harmony Day on 21st March and swap it for Harmony Week.
- m) Extend the Commonwealth’s Community Proposal Pilot program to all states and territories.
- n) Seek to eliminate institutional racism particularly those practices by commonwealth, state and local government agencies.
- o) Torture and Trauma Services should be included in the HSP suite of services and this should be reflected in the tender for the same. The woeful inadequacy of clinical multicultural mental health services within the public health and community sectors should be addressed as a matter of urgency.
- p) Migrants and refugees who have been in Australia for up to five years should be given cost free access to the Commonwealth’s TIS services to avail of Allied health services. CaLD NDIS consumers should have no cost free access to professional interpreting services so that service delivery principles such as reasonable and necessary, choice and control and consumer directed care are meaningful to them. Urgent action is required to ensure that the payment and conditions of interpreters reflect more accurately the complexity of the work that they undertake as well as the sessional nature of their work.
- q) Commonwealth, state and territory governments should fund FECCA, MYAN and NEDA and their state and territory based members to undertake systemic advocacy relating to settlement services.
- r) Access to family migration be reviewed as a matter of urgency and changes made to alleviate the difficulties faced by permanent residents especially those who came to Australia as refugees or Humanitarian entrants. Agencies like the Humanitarian Group should be adequately funded to assist migrants and refugees to complete family migration applications and to provide other assistance for this purpose.
- s) A review be undertaken urgently to explore why permanent residents are not seeking citizenship despite having completed the four year residency period and action taken to allay concerns to ensure that those residentially eligible for citizenship do not delay taking it up.

2 MULTICULTURALISM, INTEGRATION AND COMMUNITY HARMONY PROGRAM

Goal: To 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

2.1 Work with SBS Consultations

2.1.1 SBS stakeholder roundtable.

Following a meeting with Jackie Leewai, Community Engagement & Partnerships Manager of SBS and Krystal Karanfilovski, Stakeholder Relations Coordinator, ECCWA organised the above event on 8th June for its management committee members and Radio 6 EBA personnel including their CEO and the President to meet with Mandi Wicks, Director of SBS Radio and Jackie Leewai.

The issues raised at the stakeholder roundtable include:

- Past adequacy and frequency of SBS Community Engagement - follow up going forward
- Coverage of Perth views in SBS national radio coverage
- Western Australian representation in SBS board and community advisory committee
- Lack of Gender and Ethnic Diversity of SBS WA correspondents.

In terms of the key follow up actions SBS undertook the following:

- Share language lists – I have made a list below of the languages on the SBS Radio schedule
- Please let me know if any 6EBA broadcasters would be keen to provide local reports to SBS Radio programs. We could match them with the relevant programs.
- Please add us to your ECCWA newsletter distribution list
- Exploring potential cadetship/mentorships – Jackie to engage with Paul to get an understanding of 6EBA's current media pathway activities and partnerships

2.1.2 Conversations with SBS – Exploring Diversity in Perth Forum.

ECCWA along with OMI co-sponsored the 'Conversations with SBS – Exploring Diversity in WA forum which was attended by over 200 participants

2.2 Equity

We produced two editions of Equity and covered topics such as suicides within indigenous and ethnic communities, International Women's Day, Tipoffs, pay calculations and app downloads from Fair Work Ombudsman etc.

3 MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT AND SECTOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Goal: To broaden membership base which values members is maintained and the developmental needs of the multicultural sector is effectively addressed.

ECCWA undertook the following to achieve this goal.

3.1 Subsidised use of Meeting Rooms and other facilities

We continued to provide our members subsidised access to our meeting rooms and more members are now using these facilities.

3.2 Assistance with funding submissions/Contractual obligations

ECCWA provided assistance/advice to two of its members on funding submissions and advice to one on how to fulfil funding contractual obligations.

3.3 References for Funding submission

ECCWA provided references to three member organisations that nominated it as their referee.

3.4 Participation in Member's Celebrations

3.4.1 Polish Association of WA-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 226th 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.



L-R: Ramdas, Halina Szunejko and Danuta Palysz



Polish Language School children performance

3.4.2 Perth Commemorates Africa Day



On Saturday 20 May this year, African communities in Perth commemorated the 54th 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 on the day, Joe Tuazama – President of the Organisation of African Communities (OAC) of WA emphasised 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 were 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.

3.5 Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia (FECCA) Involvement:

3.5.1 FECCA AGM 2016

Three ECCWA delegates attended the AGM on Saturday 5 November 2016, and the President successfully moved motions to establish Governance and Human Rights Subcommittees within FECCA.

Constitutional Amendments

Two recommendations were proposed for the consideration of the AGM. One was to clarify the ambiguity in the constitution of the term of the Senior Deputy Chair to ensure its term of office is the same as all other office bearers and the other was a proposal to expand the constituents of FECCA.

This is not the first time that the latter was being proposed and ECCWA opposed it on all previous occasions as it is fraught with the danger of the influence of the constituent bodies being diluted by so called National Ethno-specific bodies. It is pertinent to note that in many, if not most, cases the constituent members of these peak bodies are members of state/territory/regional ECCs and therefore already have a say in FECCA matters.

ECCWA and the other ECCs/MCCs opposed the proposal and it was defeated. The proposal to clarify the ambiguity in the constitution of the term of the Senior Deputy Chair was agreed to in amended form.

3.5.2 Teleconference on Citizenship

ECCWA participated in a teleconference organised by FECCA to assist it to develop its submission to the Commonwealth governments about proposed changes to eligibility for Australian Citizenship.

3.5.3 Discussion Paper - 'Women's Leadership and Participation: Historical Perspectives and New Directions'

The above paper prepared by Tina Karanastasis, Senior Dy. Chair of FECCA and ECCWA was very supportive of the contents. The ECCWA President was the only male member of the FECCA Working Group that was established and played a significant role in supporting the push to have more women in senior positions within FECCA.

3.5.4 Mental Health in Multicultural Australia (MHIMA)

DHS released a closed tender for the above project and invited ONLY three agencies to apply and all were mainstream. ECCWA advised FECCA that the three agencies have limited links within ethnic communities and have effectively ignored our sector for decades despite getting millions of dollars each year to address the needs of ALL communities and not just the mainstream.

We strongly advocated that FECCA take up this issue with DoH as this was a case of "mindless mainstreaming."

4 ADMINISTRATION & MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

4.1 Policy and Procedures Manual

ECCWA reviewed its policy and procedures manual and updated as required.

4.2 Strategic Plan

ECCWA has not been able to pursue much of what it included in its Strategic Plan, largely because its core funding is yet to be restored. This plan will be updated as soon as its core funding is restored.

4.3 ECCWA Volunteering project

ECCWA has acquitted the grant of \$4,999 under the Strengthening Communities Program for the above in line with the Department of Social Services' response to my request for a variation of the grant, as unfortunately our Server was infiltrated remotely and has crashed and needs to be replaced. DSS advised a variation was not required and that we were free to spend the monies on any equipment that was included in the attachment to our grant agreement.

Volunteer of the Year Awards



Pius Joseph, Ramdas Sankaran, Sahra Abdi, Rebecca Ball, Executive Director OMI and Rajyashree Malaviya

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.

5 Media Involvement

5.1 Media releases

We issued the following:

1. Council Hails Election of Aly and Burney
 2. Asylum Seekers are Human Too
 3. World Hepatitis Day-Timely Reminder
 4. Council Promotes NAIDOC Week
 5. Council Condemns New Stance on Refugees
 6. Council Hosts Consultation with UN Special Rapporteur on Migration
 7. Council Condemns Government Move to Emascuate the Racial Discrimination Act
 8. Council Acclaims Premier Barnett's Refugee Stance.docx
 9. Council Commends Turnbull's USA Refugee Resettlement Deal
 10. Let's Make Australia Great Again
 11. Benvenuto & Bravissimo Signor McGowan and Arrivederci Signor Barnett
 12. Council Commends Paul Papalia's Appointment as Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests
 13. Liberals Refuse to Heed Lessons from WA Electoral Hiding
 14. Council warns Citizenship Changes will lead to Alienation and not Integration
 15. Doesn't the Religion of the Perpetrator of Last Night's Terrorism Incident Matter?
- All of the above can be accessed from our website

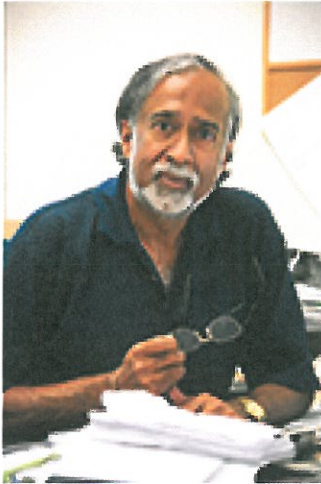
ECCWA's President was interviewed by:

- ABC Radio and TV on the issue of One Nation Senator Peter Georgiou successfully advocating on behalf of a Sri Lankan electrician's application for a permanent resident visa.
- West Australasian Media Network (WAMN) regarding Pauline Hanson's video Pray for Ban on Muslim migration and broadcast on WAMN News which can be accessed from:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gfa_sEgo7pk WAMN also covered this interview on their website under the heading Multicultural Leader Slammed Pauline Hanson's comments

Ramdas Sankaran and Suresh Rajan ECCWA's Media Spokesperson were also interviewed by several radio and print journalists and letters they wrote were published by the West Australian in its Letters to the Editor columns.

Treasurer's Report



I am pleased to present the financial report for 2016-17.

The financial report for 2016-17 includes:

- Statement of Comprehensive Income
- Statement of Financial Position
- Statement of Changes in Equity
- Statement of Income and Expenditure
- Statement of Cash flows
- Summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes

Financial Health

ECCWA is still operating without any funding whatsoever from the state government and that is deplorable given that all other state and territory Councils are being funded by their respective governments. With the election of the McGowan government and with the support of Minister Papalia, we are hopeful that we won't have to wait too much longer for this funding to be restored.

We still managed to end the year with an operational surplus of \$7,080, thanks largely because ECCWA's policy, advocacy and administration were all undertaken cost free by members of the management committee and because the Multicultural Services Centre bore a disproportionate share of the expenses incurred by the Multicultural House premises that they share.

The current management committee has clearly established sound governance and accountability measures and most importantly has undertaken substantial work to ensure that ECCWA's role and responsibilities as outlined, in the preceding section of this report were achieved.

Acknowledgements

I wish to thank Mr. Xiaobing Li 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 Ramdas Sankaran, for his 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.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Suresh Rajan'.

Suresh Rajan
BComm, MBA, Certificate in Superannuation Management
Treasurer

**ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCIL
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC.**



**FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017**

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ETHNIC COMMUNITITES COUNCIL OF WA INC.

STATEMENT BY THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

In the opinion of the Management Committee, the financial report as set out on pages 3 to 7:

- (1) Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Ethnic Communities Council of WA Inc. as at 30 June 2017 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies used and described in Note 1.
- (2) At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Ethnic Communities Council of WA Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Management and is signed on its behalf:



**Suresh Rajan, BComm, MBA,
Certificate in Superannuation Management
TREASURER**



**Ramdas Sankaran OAM
President**

DATED THIS DAY OF October 2016

Certification of Review

I have reviewed the financial statements of the Ethnic Communities Council of WA (ECCWA) for the year 2016-17 and have formed an opinion about the following under Division 5 of the Associations Incorporations Act 2015:

- (a) whether the financial statements satisfies, the requirements of Part 82 of the Act.;
- (b) whether the association has kept financial records sufficient to enable financial statements or a financial report to be prepared and audited;
- (d) whether the association has kept other records as required by Part 82 of the Act.

ECCWA has given me access to the books of the association and they have provided all information, explanations and assistance necessary for the conduct of this review.

I hereby confirm that the:

- Financial statements of ECCWA satisfies, the requirements of Part 82 of the Act;
- ECCWA has kept financial records sufficient to enable financial statements or a financial report to be prepared and audited;
- ECCWA has kept other records as required by Part 82 of the Act.



Xiaobing Li
Master of Professional Accounting (ECU)

Date: 23rd October 2017

**ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCIL OF WA INC.
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017**

| INCOME | 2017 | 2016 |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Grant (DSS) | - | 4,999 |
| Grant Monies Owed to ECCWA | 2,000 | - |
| Memberships Fees | 1,030 | 1,204 |
| Hire of ECC Facilities | 11,722 | 5,058 |
| FECCA | - | 3,000 |
| Donation | 2,000 | - |
| Other Incomes | 8,637 | 2,347 |
| Total Income | <u>\$ 25,389</u> | <u>\$ 16,608</u> |
| | | |
| Expenditure | | |
| Operational Expenses | 6,621 | 6,178 |
| Expenses (Grants/Projects) | 5,806 | 3,281 |
| FECCA | 1,650 | 3,109 |
| Other Expenses | 4,232 | 3,818 |
| Total Expenditure | <u>\$ 18,309</u> | <u>\$ 16,386</u> |
| | | |
| Net Surplus / (Deficit) | \$ 7,080 | \$ 222 |
| | | |
| Other Comprehensive Income | - | - |
| | | |
| Total Comprehensive Income / (Loss) for the year | <u>\$ 7,080</u> | <u>\$ 222</u> |

**ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCIL OF WA INC.
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017**

| | Retained Surplus 2017 | Retained Surplus 2016 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Opening balance as at 1 July (at beginning of year) | 40,377 | 40,155 |
| Surplus / (Deficit) for the year attributable to members of the entity | 7,080 | 222 |
| | | |
| Closing balance as at 30 June (at end of year) | <u>\$ 47,457</u> | <u>\$ 40,377</u> |

ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCIL OF WA INC.
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30 JUNE 2017

| | | 2017 | 2016 |
|--------------------------------|----------|------------------|------------------|
| CURRENT ASSETS | | \$ | \$ |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 2 | 35,434 | 27,410 |
| Trade and other receivables | 3 | 2,016 | 1,442 |
| Prepayments | | - | - |
| | | <u>37,449</u> | <u>28,852</u> |
| NON-CURRENT ASSETS | | | |
| Property, plant and equipment | 4 | <u>12,052</u> | <u>12,837</u> |
| Total Fixed Assets | | <u>12,052</u> | <u>12,837</u> |
| TOTAL ASSETS | | <u>49,502</u> | <u>41,689</u> |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES | | | |
| Trade and other payables | 5 | <u>2,044</u> | <u>1,312</u> |
| | | <u>2,044</u> | <u>1,312</u> |
| NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES | | | |
| Provisions | | - | - |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | | <u>2,044</u> | <u>1,312</u> |
| NET ASSETS | | <u>\$ 47,457</u> | <u>\$ 40,377</u> |
| MEMBERS' FUNDS | | | |
| Retained Surplus | | <u>47,457</u> | <u>40,377</u> |
| TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS | | <u>\$ 47,457</u> | <u>\$ 40,377</u> |

This statement is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

**ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCIL OF WA INC.
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017**

| | 2017 | 2016 |
|------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| <u>2. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</u> | | |
| Cash at Bank - Commonwealth Bank | - | - |
| Cash at Bank - Bendigo Bank | 35,334 | 27,282 |
| Cash on hand | 100 | 128 |
| | \$ 35,434 | \$ 27,410 |
| <u>3. TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES</u> | | |
| Australian Taxation Office - GST | 2,016 | 1,442 |
| | \$ 2,016 | \$ 1,442 |
| <u>4. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT</u> | | |
| Building at cost | 26,149 | 26,149 |
| Less: Accumulated Depreciation | - 14,097 | - 13,312 |
| | \$ 12,052 | \$ 12,837 |
| <u>5. TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES</u> | | |
| Australian Taxation Office - GST | 2,044 | 1,312 |
| Accrued Expenses | - | - |
| | \$ 2,044 | \$ 1,312 |

Ethnic Communities Council of WA20 View Street
North Perth WA 6006**Statement of Cash Flows (Consolidated)**

July 2016 To June 2017

| | Account Name | | |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------|--------|
| Cash Flow from Operating Activities | | | |
| | Grant Income | \$10,427 | |
| | Cash Received from Member Fee | \$1,030 | |
| | Cash Received from Hire of ECC facilities | \$11,722 | |
| | Donations | \$2,000 | |
| | Interest income | \$209 | |
| | Cash paid to Employees | -\$500 | |
| | operational expenses | -\$8,404 | |
| | projects Expenses | -\$7,456 | |
| | Multicultural House Expenses | -\$1,164 | |
| | GST Collected on Sales | -\$573 | |
| | GST Paid on Purchases | \$732 | |
| Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities | | | 8,024 |
| Cash Flow from Investing Activities | | | |
| Net Cash Flow from Investing Activities | | | 0 |
| Cash Flow from Financing Activities | | | |
| Net Cash Flow from Financing Activities | | | 0 |
| Net Increase/Decrease for the period | | | 8,024 |
| Cash at the Beginning of the period | | | 27,410 |
| Cash at the End of the period | | | 35,434 |

**ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCIL OF WA INC.
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT (DETAILED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017**

| INCOME | 2017 | 2016 |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Grant (DSS) | - | 4,999 |
| Grant Monies Owed to ECCWA | 2,000 | |
| Memberships Fees | 1,030 | 1,204 |
| Hire of ECC Facilities | 11,722 | 5,058 |
| FECCA | - | 3,000 |
| International Women's Day | 8,427 | 2,250 |
| Donation | 2,000 | - |
| Bank Interest | 209 | 97 |
| Total Income | \$ 25,389 | \$ 16,608 |
| | | |
| Expenditure | | |
| Audit and Accounting Fees | 760 | 2,000 |
| AGM/MC/General Meetings/Functions | 105 | 63 |
| Bank Charges | 8 | 147 |
| Computer Expenses | 3,540 | 1,300 |
| Depreciation | 784 | 784 |
| FECCA | 1,650 | 3,109 |
| Honorarium | 500 | 280 |
| Insurance (Association Liability) | 1,157 | - |
| Insurance (Business Combined) | 1,062 | - |
| International Women's Day | 2,018 | 2,072 |
| Launch/Forum Expenses | - | 518 |
| Maintenance Furniture / Equipment | 895 | - |
| Office Cleaning | - | 620 |
| Photocopying & Stationery | 36 | 293 |
| Volunteer Grant (other expenses) | 248 | - |
| Rates and Taxes | 760 | 753 |
| Security | 404 | - |
| Sundry | 171 | - |
| Telephone | 4,209 | 4,447 |
| Total Expenditure | \$ 18,309 | \$ 16,386 |
| | | |
| Surplus/(Deficit) | \$ 7,080 | \$ 222 |