

ANNUAL REPORT 2023 - 2024

ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCIL
OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



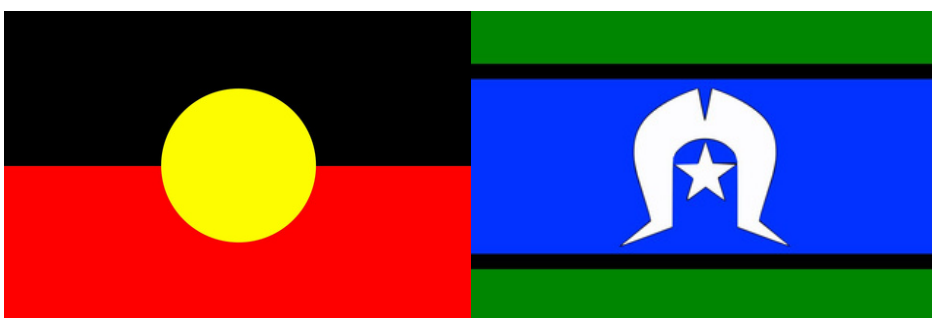
Ethnic Communities Council
of Western Australia Inc



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Ethnic Communities Council of Western Australia (ECCWA) acknowledges and pays tribute to the Whadjuk people of the Noongar Nation and their Elders past and present as the Traditional Custodians of the Country (Boodja) on which we work.

ECCWA acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Western Australia and recognise their continuing and cultural connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respect to them, their cultures, and to Elders both past and present.



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

PARTNERS AND FUNDING BODIES

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

- Office of Multicultural Interests of Western Australia (OMI)
- Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries
- Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DEMIRS)
- Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia (FECCA)
- Department of Social Services (DSS)
- Ethnic Communities Council of NSW
- Australian Communities Foundation

PEAK BODIES

ECCWA is a member of the following peak bodies and extends its appreciation for the support and assistance it received during 2023 - 2024:

- Community Employers Western Australia
- Youth Affairs Council of WA (YACWA)
- Health Consumers' Council
- Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia
- Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN)
- Western Australian Council of Social Service (WACOSS)

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

During 2023-2024, ECCWA was invited by the following government departments to partake in advisory groups, forums, and advocacy meetings:

- Department of Home Affairs (DoHA)
- Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR)
- Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DEMIRS)
- Western Australian Advocacy for Consumers of Energy Forum (WA ACE Forum)
- Economic Regulation Authority Consumer Consultative Committee (ERACC)
- WA Peaks Forum
- CALD Advocacy Groups Roundtable

The ECCWA Board extends its thanks and appreciation to all ECCWA members both long term and recent. ECCWA is fortunate to receive support from its members and to all organisations that dedicate their time to assisting the CaLD community.

ECCWA CONSTITUTIONAL OBJECTS

- 1. 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.**
- 2. 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.**
- 3. To participate in government and quasi government bodies established for the purposes of developing the Council's objectives.**
- 4. 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.**
- 5. To help build the capabilities of new and emerging ethnic groups.**
- 6. To provide support to ethnic groups who have aims and objects that are consistent with that of the Association.**
- 7. To ensure the rights of the ethnic communities including effective participation in decisions which affect them and encourage the sharing of community resources.**
- 8. To provide multi-lingual welfare and counselling services to assist the aged, women, children, youth, and ethnic people with disabilities.**
- 9. To render such assistance as the Council shall consider appropriate for the relief of persons in necessitous circumstances.**
- 10. To provide interpreting and/or translating services in specialised areas of need.**
- 11. 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.**
- 12. To increase the awareness of the public that Australia is a Multicultural Society.**
- 13. To render any other assistance, services, or facilities that the Council might consider necessary as the need arises.**
- 14. To undertake any other activity to promote multiculturalism and ethnic welfare such as providing facilities for cultural events**
- 15. To ensure a united Australia that respects its land, cherishes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and its multicultural heritage and provides equal justice and equity for all.**

ABOUT ECCWA

The Ethnic Communities Council of Western Australia, established in 1975, has been providing advocacy services for multicultural groups and communities in Western Australia for almost 50 years and is a member of the national Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia (FECCA). Through its various programs over the years, ECCWA has been able to provide various forms of advocacy and support to its members. ECCWA has 119 Community and Organisational members across the State of Western Australia and has relationships with various Government agencies at Local, State and Federal level. The website will inform you of the various services and programs the Council provides.

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.

MISSION

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

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

ECCWA BOARD

OFFICE BEARERS

- **President:** **Dr Sadhana Bose**
- **Vice President:** **Divya Sharma**
- **Secretary:** **Emem Udo**
- **Treasurer:** **Theresa Ng**



MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- **Syed Muzaffar Ahmed**
- **Meggie Collie**
- **Neelam Wadhwani**



PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Since its inception, ECCWA has played a significant role in successfully advocating for culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) communities in Western Australia, based on values rooted in social justice and human rights. It is with great pleasure that I present my first annual report as the incoming president. In this report we present an overview of ECCWA initiatives delivered in 2023-2024 while alluding to new activities in the pipeline.



Reflecting on the year, I note with satisfaction the progress made in building bridges with new members and re-affirming our relationship with existing members. During this period our vision of a cohesive, equitable, and thriving Western Australia gave direction to various initiatives. ECCWA advocated for, built capacity in, partnered with and facilitated community consultations on matters of racism, human rights and social inclusion that impact the state's diverse ethnic community groups. Towards this, ECCWA worked with stakeholders across multiple agencies and sectors to address expressed and felt gaps and needs of our communities, particularly in health and wellbeing.

As you will discover in the following pages, these initiatives aimed to ensure equitable access to programs and resources across all age groups. For example, we collaborated closely with FECCA in its Framework Consultation for inclusive solutions against racism in disability care and in its work with the Australian Human Rights Commission report, "Revitalising Australia's commitment to Human Rights". At its heart is a national Human Rights Framework that ECCWA strongly supports.

2023-2024 also saw the election of a new board in February 2024. The new board faced the challenges of ensuring delivery of the annual program in Q3 and Q4 whilst developing a blueprint for sustainability in 2024-2025. As the incoming board, we were conscious of the responsibility to retain the legacy of previous successes along with ensuring ECCWA is fit for purpose to meet the evolving needs of a rapidly changing multicultural Western Australia. Towards this, accountability in our conduct, transparency in governance and effective management of ECCWA have been core to our activities and towards the organisational reform and revitalisation currently underway.

As the saying goes, "The proof of the pudding is in eating it". The board hit the ground running with monthly meetings that resulted in review of existing operational and governance frameworks and introduction of key reforms. These reforms included a maiden board induction program and board skill matrix in March- April to inform board appointments and activity; a formal recruitment and appointment process for key executive positions during April-June; EOI for board led subcommittees to initiate review of constitution and build capacity in the community. While introducing these reforms, we ensured our members and other stakeholders were involved in and informed of the transformative changes underway vis-à-vis bi-monthly newsletters, bi-annual equity newsletter and direct interactions.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

During 2024-2025, in collaboration with our partners across multiple sectors, agencies and communities, ECCWA will work towards another successful year that will seek to balance the course set in the current Strategic Framework whilst preparing for the next Strategic Review. ECCWA seeks your engagement and encourages you to explore our website and Facebook page. Please communicate to us your thoughts and views on making ECCWA more representative and fit for purpose.

I wish to convey my heartfelt gratitude to the ECCWA team, our many volunteers and community well-wishers for their commitment, passion and wholehearted engagement in delivering our strategic work; to the previous and current boards for their guidance and support, including the stewardship of my immediate predecessors: Yaso Ponnuthurai (Past President) and Mamta Kochar (Past Acting President); to our member organisations for their partnership and support; to our funding organisations - Commonwealth, State, Local Government and others - for their invaluable support.

In closing, I look forward to our continued partnership in enabling Western Australia's multicultural communities to dream, create and live a life that reflects their and our country's potential.

With Gratitude,

Dr Sadhana Bose MBBS MD (Ind) MPH MFPHM FFPHM (UK)

President, ECCWA

ACTING EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT



As I sit down to reflect on my year as the (Acting) CEO of ECCWA, I am reminded of the significant milestones we achieved together. Transitioning from the role of Treasurer on the Board to leading the organisation, the initial months were both challenging and rewarding, setting the stage for a transformative journey.

The 2022-2023 annual reporting of various programs marked the beginning of my tenure. It underscored the importance of our work in delivering impactful community services. Each program's success story demonstrated the dedication of our team and the resilience of those we serve. The YES 23 Campaign was launched amidst this period, energising our office and the broader community. This campaign significantly increased our engagement with both the community and government, highlighting ECCWA's commitment to advocacy and social impact. Our engagement with the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) regarding the referendum ensured that our members and the wider CaLD population were well-informed and actively participating. This effort exemplified our role in fostering informed and engaged communities.

We also undertook a comprehensive organisational culture revamp. Introducing a new onboarding process for new members and digitising our paperwork transformed our operations, making them more efficient and inclusive. Our updated communications strategy boosted our social media engagement and modernised our outreach, enhancing our connection with the community. An SGM was convened to amend our constitution, reflecting our evolving vision and goals. This period also saw a pivotal community consultation that finalised the 2023-2026 Strategic Plan, providing a clear roadmap for our future initiatives.

After a brief, planned holiday, I returned with renewed vigour. We established regular quarterly meetings with the Department of Home Affairs and the Office of Multicultural Interests to address current issues. The AGM facilitated the election of new Board Members and the creation of a comprehensive Board Induction pack to support their integration.

The Speak My Language Program, funded by the Ethnic Communities Council of NSW, became a cornerstone of our initiatives, sharing real experiences of CaLD and Indigenous Australians with disabilities across various platforms. This initiative provided invaluable insights and resources in 25 languages, fostering a sense of community and support. We celebrated the final year of the Genesis Program, funded by the Department of Social Services, which provided culturally appropriate support services to disadvantaged CaLD women. The program's success in empowering women and fostering community connections was a testament to its impact.

The FECCA National Anti-Racism Framework Multicultural Community Consultations, including our successful CAiRE (Community Anti-Racism Initiatives and Empowerment) sessions, highlighted our commitment to addressing racism and promoting inclusion. These initiatives, along with various capacity-building training sessions and community consultations, strengthened our community associations and amplified their voices.

Our achievements, funded by the Office of Multicultural Interests (OMI), have been particularly impactful. We enhanced the capabilities of CaLD community associations through capacity-building training sessions covering governance, media, and financial management. Additionally, we hosted sector issues training sessions addressing racism, family and domestic violence (FDV), and healthy relationships. By facilitating collaboration among CaLD community associations and other partners through network activities and meetings, we fostered a spirit of cooperation and mutual support. We conducted consultations and research to provide insights into the current trends and issues facing CaLD communities, which were shared with relevant community service organisations. Our efforts to increase understanding of State Government policies and priorities were evident through our media releases, newsletters, and social media engagement. Advocacy for CaLD communities was strengthened by our engagements with elected representatives and government agencies, making informed submissions based on community consultations. Lastly, we ensured that CaLD communities and associations had their say on important matters and received the services they needed through narrative case studies and other advocacy efforts.

Throughout my tenure, the Board was incredibly supportive, especially during a particularly challenging period when I unexpectedly lost my father. Their commitment and leadership were particularly evident when they stepped in to manage the AGM in December, allowing me the time I needed to cope with my loss. In February, we welcomed a newly elected Board, bringing fresh perspectives and renewed energy to our mission. None of these achievements would have been possible without the selfless support of our dedicated team members, volunteers, and the unwavering support of our members. Their commitment and hard work have been the backbone of our success.

As I pass the baton to the incoming CEO, I am filled with pride in what we have accomplished and confidence in ECCWA's continued growth and impact. The foundation we've built together will undoubtedly support the future successes of our vibrant community.

POLICY & ADVOCACY

In 2023-2024, ECCWA continued to work closely with CaLD communities, relevant government and non-government agencies to achieve its vision of a diverse, fair, just and harmonious society in which all people have the opportunity to participate to reach their full potential. Below are some of the initiatives undertaken by ECCWA in support of its vision.

Department of Home Affairs Quarterly Meeting

ECCWA has engaged in Quarterly meetings with the Department of Home Affairs to discuss issues concerning the CaLD community and the progress of ECCWA.

Western Australian Advocacy for Consumers of Energy Forum (WA ACE Forum)

ECCWA is a WA ACE Forum Member Organisation, and participates in several forum meetings throughout the year. The Forum brings together energy consumer advocates to strengthen the consumer voice in the energy sector. The WA ACE Forum furthers the sharing of consumer views in discussions about the development of energy sector policies, products and solutions. The Forum is chaired by the Coordinator for Energy to bring together energy sector and consumer representatives to discuss energy related topics.

Department of Energy, Mines, Industry, Regulation and Safety

ECCWA has engaged with the Consumer Protection Division of DEMIRS to be a committee member of the Consumer Advisory Committee. The Committee provides advice to the Minister for Commerce and Commissioner for Consumer Protection, discussing key policy reforms affecting consumer protection legislation in Australia. ECCWA represents the interests of the CaLD community.

Understanding Community Education and Support for CALD Communities in Australia - Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) | 04/04/2024

Representatives from ECCWA joined a crucial roundtable discussion with the AEC and 11 community leaders to address the challenges of low voter turnout and high vote informality among culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities. The session provided a platform to evaluate the current awareness of the electoral process and the AEC's role within these communities. Participants openly discussed the barriers that impede community understanding and engagement with the electoral system. The dialogue also explored effective strategies through which the AEC can enhance community members' comprehension of electoral mechanisms and encourage active democratic participation. This meeting highlighted the need for tailored approaches to break down the complexities of the electoral process, ensuring all community members can contribute to Australia's democratic landscape.

Consultation on Support for Palestinian, Muslim, and Arab Communities Affected by the Hamas-Israel Conflict | 14/05/2024

An interstate online webinar was held with the Department of Home Affairs to address the needs of the Australian Palestinian, Muslim, and Arab communities in Western Australia and South Australia. ECCWA represented the involved communities in this consultation. The webinar was chaired by Assistant Secretary for Multicultural Affairs, Erica Biddle. The purpose was to inform the design of potential future grant opportunities aimed at supporting these communities.

Minister's Online Consultations on the 2024-25 Humanitarian Program 31/05/2024

The Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs, the Hon Andrew Giles MP, met online with key community organisations and peak bodies, including ECCWA, as part of his community consultations on Australia's Humanitarian Program for 2024-25. Australia operates a dedicated Humanitarian Program that offers resettlement for refugees and others overseas who are in humanitarian need, and protection for people who arrive lawfully in Australia and engage Australia's protection obligations.

Digital Inclusion Project | 06/06/2023

ECCWA met with staff of the WA Digital Inclusion Project to discuss a partnership. The Project is a collaboration between leading community service organisations and peak bodies, the WA Government, digital partners NBN Co and WorkVenture, and Lotterywest. The Western Australian Council of Social Service (WACOSS) is leading the initiative, and has responsibility for project governance. The project aims to improve digital inclusion within the community through various initiatives, including working with community services organisations to build the capability of community service workers to support their clients' digital skill requirements, and implementation of innovative pilot initiatives aligned with strategic focus areas of Ability, Access and Affordability.



CaLD Cancer Resources Project 2023/2024 | 04/08/2023

ECCWA met with the Health Consumer's Council to discuss the CaLD Cancer Resources Project 2023/2024, to understand the unique challenges faced when grappling with a cancer diagnosis and how to disseminate relevant information effectively. This initiative will see essential resources translated into 6 languages, bridging gaps and ensuring that vital support is accessible to all.



Harmony Week

As a member of Social Inclusion Mirrabooka and Sounds Group, ECCWA participated as part of the Harmony Week Committee, setting up a stall in Mirrabooka to interact with community members on all matters regarding diversity and social services. ECCWA also assisted the Town of Victoria Park at the Harmony Week Picnic by disseminating a survey for feedback on the event.



External Breast Prostheses Reimbursement Program (EBPRP) by Ernst and Young

ECCWA participated in an evaluation of the External Breast Prostheses Reimbursement Program (EBPRP), which is an important program that reimburses women with breast cancer for the cost of their prosthesis after mastectomy. This evaluation was undertaken for the Cancer Policy and Projects Branch of the Department of Health and Aged Care, by the Health and Human Services Team at Ernst and Young. A key component of the evaluation was to understand the experience of those from CALD backgrounds, to ensure that the program meets the needs of this population, recognising that CALD women often face additional challenges in their management of breast cancer.

Respect Rising Workshop | 01/03/2024

ECCWA took part in the Respect Rising Workshop co-hosted by Reconciliation WA and Western Australian Council of Social Services (WACOSS). The workshop centred on how peak bodies can implement reconciliation effort (particularly post-referendum) within their communities through community engagement, solidarity, truth telling, service design, collaboration and voice.

ACCAN Consumer Advisory Council | 27/03/2024

Representatives from ECCWA participated in the Australian Communications Consumer Action Network's (ACCAN) Member's Advisory Forum. The forum serves as a platform to inform ACCAN members about ongoing initiatives and gather input to shape future policy directions. Topics discussed at the forum were the reform of the Universal Service Obligation; the Telstra and Optus 3G network shutdown; and scams reduction initiatives.

Perceptions of Elder Abuse in Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities

ECCWA is taking part in the CaLD Elder Rights project, "Perceptions of Elder Abuse in Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities" announced by Minister for Seniors and Ageing Hon Don Punch MLA today. The project is in conjunction with Umbrella Multicultural Community Care Services Inc, Legal Aid WA, and funded by the Department of Communities. We have participated in information sessions with other community representatives from CaLD backgrounds to discuss elder rights and elder abuse.



Acknowledge This! Training Workshop | 11/05/2024

Members of the ECCWA board and staff were invited by OMI to attend an informative and hands-on two-hour workshop to gain a deeper understanding of the purpose of an Acknowledgement of Country. It also offered the opportunity to develop a personalised Acknowledgement of Country.

Australian Multicultural Foundation's Lexicon Project | 21/05/2024

ECCWA participated in a focus group to support a research project conducted by the Australian Multicultural Foundation (AMF). This project will develop a language guide, in the form of a 'dictionary' for Australian Government officials to use when speaking publicly on matters such as terrorism and violent extremism. The goal of this guide is to foster greater accuracy and trust in the way these issues are communicated to the Australian public. This project is based on a similar guide developed by the AMF in 2013 and is funded by the Australian Government. The purpose of the focus group is for CaLD representatives to offer their perspective, knowledge, and experience on the importance language has in impacting community-relations. AMF sought to be guided by alternative language for Government officials to consider when speaking publicly on these issues.

CaLD Impact Statement - WA Abortion Clinical Care Guidelines | 23/05/2024

ECCWA met with the WA Department of Health to discuss developing a CaLD Impact Statement which is an appendix in the WA Abortion Care Clinical Guideline. The ECCWA board has endorsed the draft impact statement.

City of Swan Family and Domestic Violence Forum | 28/05/2024

ECCWA recently participated in the "Swan Multicultural Family and Domestic Violence Forum," which focused on Domestic Violence (FDV) within refugee and migrant communities. Our President, Dr Sadhana Bose, was a guest speaker at the event and discussed the challenges, strengths, and issues faced by multicultural communities regarding family and domestic violence service provision. She also took part in a panel discussion alongside other CaLD community leaders.

The forum underscored the necessity of addressing FDV through a culturally nuanced approach, starting with the WA Police's dedicated investment in matters relating to family and domestic violence. Key discussions included exploring emerging trends in FDV for CaLD communities and insights from the SHAKTI Project, which highlighted the challenges faced by refugee and migrant women in WA.

A significant part of the forum involved shifting perspectives to bring perpetrators into view, while also examining the unique challenges and strengths in providing community support for domestic violence survivors in close-knit communities. Specific issues within the Sikh community were addressed, focusing on the challenges and strengths in addressing FDV. The forum also explored the factors contributing to domestic violence in the Australian Islamic community, alongside the strengths and challenges at both the community and faith levels.

Furthermore, considerations were made for addressing domestic violence in multicultural communities, especially in geographical areas with limited service provisions. The event provided a comprehensive discussion on the issues, challenges, and strengths in supporting FDV survivors, reinforcing the importance of a holistic and culturally sensitive approach to effectively combat domestic violence in our diverse society.



Advisory Group for Family and Domestic Violence in Refugee and Migrant Communities in WA | 11/06/2024

ECCWA was pleased to be invited to contribute to a meeting with the Advisory Group for Family and Domestic Violence in Refugee and Migrant Communities in Western Australia convened by The Centre for Women's Safety and Wellbeing. The group is comprised of community leaders, professionals, and experts, and aims to address family violence in refugee and migrant communities. The group contends the challenges and recommendations highlighted in the National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2032, and the Path to Safety: Western Australia's Strategy to Reduce Family and Domestic Violence 2020-2030, remain largely unaddressed.

The group recognises the urgent need to address domestic violence and has the following main objectives for the remainder of 2024:

- Advise relevant Ministers, Government, and non-government stakeholders on current and emerging issues relevant to family and domestic violence in refugee and migrant communities in Western Australia.
- Prepare a report and recommendations on preventing and responding to family and domestic violence in refugee and migrant communities.
- Launch the report at a forum spotlighting family and domestic violence in refugee and migrant communities.

RED NOSE - The Healing Through Community Project

Red Nose has been awarded funding from the Department of Health and Age Care to undertake a project that aims to address the significant gaps in bereavement support for parents and families from vulnerable populations after they have experienced a miscarriage or stillbirth.

The five population groups that are being focused on are:

- First Nations
- Rural and remote
- Young mums (under 20)
- Culturally and Linguistically Diverse families
- Refugees and migrants

Red Nose has recently established the Healing Through Community project that will be delivered through a co-design methodology. This is to ensure that bereavement services, supports and resources are informed, designed, and tested with the community for the community. Through a co-design process, we aim to ensure that service supports and resources generated meet the needs, build equality and improve access to bereavement support services for targeted population groups.

ECCWA has been invited by Amrit Dhillon from Red Nose to participate in the Community Steering Committee for the Healing Through Community Project. The Steering Committee meets via Zoom every two months and so far we have had three national meetings. The Healing Through Community Project aims to address the significant gaps in bereavement support for parents and families from vulnerable populations after they have experienced a miscarriage or stillbirth.

Meetings with community service organisations:

- WACOSS
- Health Consumer's Council
- WA Peaks Forum
- Reconciliation WA
- Red Nose
- OVIS
- Council for International Students of WA
- ACCAN
- Australian Multicultural Foundation
- The Social Policy Group
- Legal Aid
- Edmund Rice Centre WA
- Centre for Women's Safety and Wellbeing
- Youth Affairs Council of WA
- Yes 23

Meetings with CaLD associations

- Chung Wa
- Hindu Association Pilbara
- The Sacred India Gallery
- Chin Community WA
- Saraswati Mahavidhyalaya Centre for Performing Arts and Education
- Samskruthi Perth
- Organisation of African Communities
- Kerala Hindu Samajam (KHS)
- Iconic Confessions
- WA Sikh Women's Alliance Network
- Ambedkarite Buddhist Community Perth

ECCWA hopes to continue expanding connections with other CaLD associations and community service organisations to further support our vision.

GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATION

Hon Michelle Rowland MP, Federal Minister for Communications

The Ethnic Communities Council of WA was privileged to meet with Hon Michelle Rowlands, Federal Minister for Communications in the Albanese Labor Government (05/07/2023). Minister Rowlands was very receptive to listening to our communities issues about such things as programming at SBS and ABC, scams and their proliferation in CaLD communities, complaints mechanisms that needed to be culturally and linguistically appropriate and other similar matters.



Consul-General of India at India in Australia, Perth

ECCWA's former president, Mamta Kochar, Acting Executive Officer, Baily Fernandes, and Suresh Rajan met with the Consul-General of India at India in Australia, at the Perth Indian Consulate (15/09/2023).



High Commissioner of India to Australia, H.E. Shri Gopal Baglay, in honour of Hon'ble External Affairs Minister of India, HE. Dr. S. Jaishankar

ECCWA was invited to Reception hosted by High Commissioner of India to Australia, H.E. Shri Gopal Baglay, in honour of Hon'ble External Affairs Minister of India, HE. Dr. S. Jaishankar (10/02/2024). Our Acting EO, Baily Fernandes attended the event. Points discussed included the Indian Diaspora in Australia, its growth, and its connections to India.

Hon. Dr. Anne Aly MP, Minister for Early Childhood Education and Youth

Hon. Dr. Anne Aly was Keynote Speaker for ECCWA and Multicultural Services Centre WA's International Women's Day event (08/03/2024). Discussions were had on the intersectionality of race and feminism, the need for greater representation of women from CaLD communities, and support services for women.



Hon. Yaz Mubarakai MLA, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education; Aboriginal Affairs; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests

Our new President, Dr Sadhana Bose, attended the WA Multicultural Awards (14/03/2024) and met with Hon Yaz Mubarakai to discuss the successes of the multicultural community and further strengthening ECCWA's position as peak body.



Hon. Dr. Tony Buti MLA, Minister for Education; Aboriginal Affairs; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests

Ms Meredith Hammat MLA, Parliamentary Secretary to the Deputy Premier; Treasurer; Minister for Transport, Tourism and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education; Aboriginal Affairs; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests

Our president, Dr Sadhana Bose, and board member, Emem Udo, attended the Mirrabooka Freedom Cup Event during Refugee Week 2024, hosted by Edmund Rice (15/06/2024). They met with Hon. Dr. Tony Buti and Ms Meredith Hammat.

PROGRAMS

GENESIS

The Genesis Program was funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Social Services.

Aim

The primary aim of the Genesis Program is to ensure that disadvantaged and vulnerable women from culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) backgrounds, including those at risk or survivors of family and domestic violence (FDV), have access to a range of culturally appropriate support services. These services are designed to help break their isolation, form new networks and friendships, and provide access to therapeutic, educational, and employment services to assist them in gaining independence. We work closely with CaLD communities to engage and support their disadvantaged women, building their capacity to connect with service providers. ECCWA collaborates with other multicultural services, such as ISHAR, WHFS, Centrecare, Women's Refuge, Police, Immigration, and the Department of Communities, to assist these women in building their capacity to engage with service providers.

Plan

The Genesis Program was funded for two years, from 2022 to 2024, providing support groups across the metropolitan area. The program had a total of 233 participants. Women attending these groups had access to:

- Socialisation opportunities
- Information resources, including Legal Aid, Centrelink, Community Legal Services, Immigration, etc.
- Specialist CaLD FDV advocates who facilitate access to therapeutic counselling, education, and employment skills, aiding their path to independence.

Activities and Programs

The Genesis Program offered a variety of activities and programs, including:

- Community education and interactive workshops such as financial literacy in general and budgeting
- Basic digital skills training
- Health and well-being; nutrition and health checks and personal development skills sessions
- Employment information
- Guidance on communicating with government agencies and accessing financial information resources

Additionally, the program offers accredited short courses:

- Digital Inclusion Scholarship Program (40 women enrolled)
- Digital Inclusion Championship Program (5 women enrolled, engaging over 50 community members)
- First Aid and CPR Training (110 women trained)

Beneficiaries

The Genesis Program supported a diverse group of women, including:

- CaLD women experiencing isolation
- Victims and/or survivors of domestic violence
- Unemployed women ready to work
- Women learning to navigate complex service systems
- Women going through difficult phases, feeling anxious or uncertain, and ready to reconnect in a safe, non-judgemental space
- International students seeking to connect with support groups
- Women desiring engaging conversations with others from different cultures

GENESIS



SPEAK MY LANGUAGE (SML)

The Speak My Language (SML) Project, a collaboration between the ECCWA and the Ethnic Communities Council of New South Wales (ECCNSW), focused on broadcasting a series of programs tailored for CaLD people with disabilities. ECCNSW received funding from the Department of Social Services under the Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) Framework, National Information Program to deliver SML. ECCWA received a funding extension of \$99,550 to run SML from November 2022 - July 2024. This phase aimed to extend the reach and impact of the project by engaging multiple broadcasters and producing content that addresses various community involvement areas for CaLD individuals with disabilities. ECCWA's SML program was coordinated by Mr Suresh Rajan.

Episodes

These episodes were primarily broadcasted on Radio Station 6EBA FM during their language segments. Additionally, a special broadcast facilitated a dedicated disability program, ensuring the content reached a broader audience.

ARABIC

1. Episode One: Libraries, a place of inclusion and curiosity
<https://speakmylanguage.com.au/podcasts/play/B29/>
2. Episode Two: The Outdoors is for Everyone
<https://speakmylanguage.com.au/podcasts/play/B30/>
3. Episode Three: Getting Active
<https://speakmylanguage.com.au/podcasts/play/B31/>
4. Episode Four: The Power of Creativity
<https://speakmylanguage.com.au/podcasts/play/B33/E>

SPANISH

1. Episode One: The Outdoors is for Everyone
<https://speakmylanguage.com.au/podcasts/play/B34/E>
2. Episode Two: Discover More at Accessible Museums
<https://speakmylanguage.com.au/podcasts/play/B35/E>
3. Episode Three: Keeping Active with a Disability
<https://speakmylanguage.com.au/podcasts/play/B36/E>
4. Episode Four: Yoga and Meditation
<https://speakmylanguage.com.au/podcasts/play/B37/E>
5. Episode Five: Maintaining Independence
<https://speakmylanguage.com.au/podcasts/play/B38/E>
6. Episode Six: Let's Dance!
<https://speakmylanguage.com.au/podcasts/play/B39/E>

TURKISH

1. Episode One: Creative Outlets Create Wellbeing
<https://speakmylanguage.com.au/podcasts/play/B40/E>
2. Episode Two: Get Active!
<https://speakmylanguage.com.au/podcasts/play/B41/E>
3. Episode Three: Realising Professional Goals
<https://speakmylanguage.com.au/podcasts/play/B42/E>
4. Episode Four: Creating Inclusive Communities
<https://speakmylanguage.com.au/podcasts/play/B43/E>

VIETNAMESE

1. Episode One: Creative Outlets Create Wellbeing
<https://speakmylanguage.com.au/podcasts/play/B44/E>
2. Episode Two: Building a strong social network
<https://speakmylanguage.com.au/podcasts/play/B45/E>
3. Episode Three: Unlocking Professional Goals
<https://speakmylanguage.com.au/podcasts/play/B46/E>
4. Episode Four: Practising Gratitude and Mindfulness
<https://speakmylanguage.com.au/podcasts/play/B47/E>

Impact

The SML Project had a significant positive impact on the CaLD community, particularly individuals with disabilities. By addressing themes such as inclusion, creativity, physical activity, and social engagement, the programs fostered a sense of community and empowerment. The episodes served as a valuable resource, providing practical information and inspiration to listeners.

All programs have been successfully aired. The majority were broadcasted on Radio Station 6EBA FM during their language segments. Additionally, some episodes were aired as part of a special broadcast dedicated to a disability program, which was facilitated by the project coordinator.

The project's success is reflected in its ability to have exceeded the set KPIs; the initial KPI was to run 16 programs, but this was exceeded by airing a total of 18 episodes by 30 March 2024. SML collaborated with collaborating with two community radio stations, World Radio and Capital Radio, through individual community association programs to broadcast all 18 episodes on their platform, which has a smaller audience share. This initiative meant that the KPIs were significantly exceeded.

YES 23 CAMPAIGN

ECCWA received \$8,550 in funding from the 2023 Yes Alliance Capacity Fund Grant from the Australian Communities Foundation (ACF), to build our capacity and undertake aligned campaign activities on the ground within CaLD communities to advocate for the Voice to Parliament Referendum. ECCWA's campaign stood as a testament to the power of targeted community engagement and advocacy.

HIGHLIGHTS

ECCWA x MSCWA Co-Hosted Discussion | 17th July

Debunked Voice Referendum myths with Hon Dr Anne Aly MP and influential figures like Senator Jordan Steel John, enhancing event impact. .

WAMN News Interview | 27th July

Broadcasted ECCWA's firm support for the YES Vote, reaching broad audiences and solidifying their stance.

Signing of the Joint Resolution of Multicultural Australia for a Voice | 4th August

Highlighted ECCWA's commitment, rallying multicultural community support for the referendum.

Youth Engagement Sessions | 11th August

Collaborated with the Youth Affairs Council of WA to engage CaLD youth, crucial for referendum dialogue.

Community Meet-Up | 25th August

ECCWA hosted Daniel Morrison, CEO of Wungening Corp, to speak on the YES23 Campaign from a Noongar and Yamitji perspective. Also had 2023 Local Hero Omar Singh speak on the day.

Educational Sessions for Somali Community | 29th September

Directly engaged the Somali community, effectively making complex referendum information accessible

Cottesloe Beach YES Campaign | 30th August

Over 900 people turn-out at Cottesloe Beach.

Event Turnout

PROJECT	DATE	Attendees
Nuanced Community Innovators	26.09.23	1
First People's Disability Network	27.09.23	40
Somali Support	29.09.23	40
El Hadi Community Language School	30.09.23	15
Multicultural Film Festival	30.10.23	8
Umbrella Polish	02.10.23	52
Umbrella Former Yugoslavia	03.10.23	65
Umbrella Spanish	05.10.23	60
Train-the-Trainer Kosta Lucas	05.10.23	15
Multicultural Festival	06.10.23	200
Sudanese Until We Return	08.10.23	80
Umbrella Macedonian	11.10.23	60
TOTAL		636

ECCWA's YES 23 Campaign showcased the profound impact of focused, inclusive advocacy and education. By bridging cultural divides, debunking misinformation, and fostering a shared understanding around the Voice to Parliament, ECCWA not only strongly contributed to the YES vote, but also deepened multicultural engagement across Western Australia. The campaign's broad reach—engaging over 1,500 individuals directly through educational initiatives, workshops and collaborations—underscored its success in meeting the varied informational needs of CaLD communities, ensuring the campaign's message was widely understood and supported. Looking ahead, ECCWA aims to build on this momentum, further strengthening cooperation to support reconciliation.

WA Ethnic Communities Engagement Strategy Yes23 Campaign



YES 23 PHOTOS



FECCA

National Anti-Racism Framework Multicultural Community Consultations

ECCWA received \$8,000 in funding from FECCA from the National Anti-Racism Framework Multicultural Community Consultations grant.

In March 2024, ECCWA conducted a comprehensive consultation to inform the Federation of Ethnic Communities Council of Australia's (FECCA) submission for the Federal Government's National Anti-Racism Framework. The consultation focused on the challenges faced by people with disabilities and individuals from refugee and asylum-seeking backgrounds within CaLD communities.

Purpose of the Consultation

The primary objective was to gather lived experiences, perspectives, and insights about racism from CaLD communities, particularly those with disabilities. The aim was to address the challenges these communities face concerning racism and to inform broader efforts to enhance anti-racism frameworks and policies, ensuring they resonate with the realities and needs of CaLD individuals.

Methodology

The consultation employed an inclusive, discussion-based approach, involving participants with disabilities, their support workers, nominees, and interpreters. Data was collected through various methods, including real-time documentation, digital feedback via Microsoft Forms, and observational data to provide additional context.

Findings

- 1. Language and Communication Barriers:** Challenges were identified in aged care and disability services due to language barriers. Instances where staff were prohibited from speaking languages other than English, even during breaks, were noted. The importance of language preservation, especially for individuals with dementia or Alzheimer's reverting to their first language, was emphasised.
- 2. Interpreter Services:** Participants faced difficulties accessing interpreter services, with some dialects having very limited availability. The inappropriate use of family members as interpreters in healthcare settings was also noted.
- 3. Employment and Discrimination:** Significant barriers in employment were highlighted, including experiences of name discrimination and tokenistic approaches to diversity in the workplace. There was a noted correlation between international incidents and local racism levels.
- 4. Healthcare Access:** Non-English speakers with profound disabilities faced difficulties accessing healthcare services. Issues with service provision cancellations due to a lack of available interpreters were noted.
- 5. Housing and Community Services:** Challenges in the private rental market and discrimination in accessing domestic violence services for non-English speaking women with disabilities were discussed.
- 6. Community Attitudes and Inclusion:** There was a consensus on the need for greater community education to combat racism and enhance understanding of diversity. The role of media in perpetuating stereotypes and contributing to racism was also noted.

Recommendations

To address the identified issues, the following recommendations were proposed:

- 1. Enhanced Language Support:** Implement policies supporting the use of multiple languages in aged care and disability services and increase the availability of professional interpreters.
- 2. Training and Awareness:** Provide comprehensive cultural competency training for employees in healthcare, aged care, and community services, and develop educational programs within CaLD and broader communities.
- 3. Employment Practices:** Encourage non-discriminatory hiring practices and promote diversity and inclusion through targeted programs and initiatives.
- 4. Healthcare Accessibility:** Ensure healthcare and disability services are accessible to individuals with disabilities from CaLD backgrounds with adequate interpreter services and culturally sensitive care.
- 5. Housing and Community Services:** Address discriminatory practices in the housing sector and improve access to domestic violence services for non-English speaking women with disabilities.
- 6. Policy and Legislation:** Advocate for policies that actively combat racism and promote equity, and support the expansion of initiatives like the Substantive Equality program nationwide.

Conclusion

The consultation underscored the pervasive challenges faced by individuals with disabilities from CaLD backgrounds, emphasising the intersectionality of racism and discrimination across various sectors. The recommendations aim to bridge these gaps and advocate for a comprehensive approach to combating racism and enhancing support for CaLD communities with disabilities.



CAiRE - Community Anti-Racism Initiatives and Empowerment

ECCWA received \$5,000 from FECCA for the National Anti-Racism Framework Multicultural Community Consultation Initiatives grant. We hosted our event, titled CAiRE: Community Anti-Racism Initiatives and Empowerment, on the 28th May 2024. This initiative aimed to empower community members to combat racism through understanding, practical responses, and support networks.

Keynote Speakers and Participants

Our keynote speakers were Elizabeth Lang from Diversity Focus and Kayla Manuel from the Equal Opportunity Commission. The event saw participation from 31 individuals.

Organisations represented included: University of Western Australia, Kitwek Association of WA, Indian Society of WA, Congolese Community of WA, Living Hope, Private therapist, Anglicare WA, WA SWAN, Efficient Law Group, MPB, Perth First Aid, United In Diversity (UID), Association of Malaysians in WA, Australian Asian Association, Swan Employment, Reconciliation WA, North Metropolitan Tafe, Perth Muslim Association, and Australian Iraqi Association for Cultural Connections Inc.

Workshop Objectives

1. **Recognising and Understanding Racism:** The workshop aimed to help participants recognise different forms of racism, including personal, institutional, structural, and cultural racism. Sessions provided a historical context and discussed contemporary issues.
2. **Developing Effective Responses:** Practical role-playing scenarios were used to equip participants with strategies to respond assertively to racist incidents. Scenarios included hospital triage situations, racial profiling on public transport, and online harassment.
3. **Sharing Experiences and Strategies:** The workshop provided a platform for participants to share their personal experiences with racism, fostering empathy and a supportive community environment.
4. **Accessing Resources and Legal Rights:** Information was provided on legal rights and protections under anti-discrimination laws in Western Australia and Australia more broadly. This included guidance on documenting incidents, navigating the reporting process, and accessing legal support.
5. **Promoting Allyship and Advocacy:** Discussions emphasised the importance of standing up for oneself and others. Participants were provided with tools and techniques for effective allyship in their communities and workplaces.
6. **Support Systems and Networks:** The workshop highlighted the importance of community support and provided resources for accessing emotional, psychological, and legal assistance.

Highlights

- Role-playing scenarios and personal testimonies fostered empathy and validation.
- Discussions covered diverse topics, including racism in schools and the intersection of disabilities and racism.
- The workshop's initial experiment with wristbands and handouts effectively illustrated the impact of racism.

Outcomes and Feedback

The workshop received positive feedback, with participants rating it 7.7/10 for overall effectiveness in addressing anti-racism and empowerment. Attendees particularly appreciated the sections on Equal Opportunity and Legal Rights. The role-playing scenarios were well-received, engaging participants in practical exercises to respond to real-life racist incidents.

Impact of the CAiRE Workshop

Empowerment and Awareness: The CAiRE workshop empowered community members by enhancing their understanding of various forms of racism and providing historical context. This improved their ability to recognise and address racism in their daily lives.

Practical Skills and Responses: Participants were equipped with effective strategies to respond to racist incidents through practical role-playing scenarios, such as hospital triage situations and racial profiling on public transport, fostering confidence and preparedness.

Legal Knowledge and Advocacy: The workshop provided crucial information on legal rights and protections under anti-discrimination laws. This empowered participants to document incidents, navigate the reporting process, and access legal support.

Community Support and Networks: Emphasising community support, the workshop connected participants with resources for emotional, psychological, and legal assistance, fostering a robust community infrastructure to combat racism collectively.

Increased Understanding and Advocacy: The workshop promoted active allyship and advocacy, encouraging participants to stand up for themselves and others, fostering a proactive community against racism.



EVENTS HELD BY ECCWA

During 2023-2024, ECCWA hosted several key events in the following areas:

- Capacity Building workshops
- Training and Information Sessions
- Community Network Forums
- Consultations

Our objective is to ensure the benefits of multiculturalism and multicultural citizenship are realised, providing CaLD and wider communities with the information, skills, and opportunities needed to promote community cohesion. ECCWA aims to achieve this by raising awareness of and addressing issues such as racism, mental wellbeing, healthy relationships, and governance, fostering collaboration and harmony. The following sections outline our events.

Strategic Roadmap 2023-2026 | 14/09/23

ECCWA hosted a capacity-building session to outline its strategic roadmap for 2023-2026. The roadmap was created based on survey results from member organisations, ensuring alignment and a unified voice for CaLD communities. The session emphasised sharing successful strategies and insights to facilitate growth for newer or smaller organisations.

Impact on Communities

The involvement of 19 respondents in shaping the public policy allowed ECCWA to align with member organisations, creating a more effective and impactful representation for CaLD communities.

Feedback

Seventeen of the nineteen attendees believed ECCWA should continue advocating for CaLD communities at public policy events. There is a demand for more face-to-face consultations and community network forums to keep members informed and engaged with ECCWA's objectives for CaLD communities in Western Australia.

Statistics

- Total attendees: 19
- CaLD associations in attendance:
 - Chung Wah
 - Kitwek Association
 - Umbrella Multicultural Community Care Services Inc
 - The Turkish Australian Culture House Inc
 - Australian Iraq Association for Cultural Connections Inc
 - Iranian Community
 - Navodaya Australia
 - WA Multicultural Lions
 - Perth City Musallah Association
 - Independent representatives



My SHiFT: Mental Health, You, Sexual Harassment, & Suicide Awareness Training | June 2024

ECCWA, in collaboration with Lifeline WA, hosted four capacity-building sessions focusing on mental health, sexual harassment, and suicide awareness for CaLD community members and leaders.

Workshop 1:

Talking About Mental Health (06/06/2024) - 4 attendees

Workshop 2:

Supporting Yourself and Others (13/06/2024) - 11 attendees

Workshop 3:

Talking About Sexual Harassment (20/06/2024) - 8 attendees

Workshop 4:

Talking About Suicide (27/06/2024) - 6 attendees

Statistics

- Zimbabwe Association of WA
- The Spiers Centre
- Circle Green
- KCWA
- Kitwek Association
- City of Wanneroo South Sudan Youth
- Individually affiliated

Impact on Communities

By focusing on critical areas such as mental health, sexual harassment, and suicide awareness, the training equips community leaders and members with the necessary competencies to address these sensitive issues within their organisations, encouraging good governance. The sessions empowered community leaders to take proactive steps in promoting safe and supportive environments, and foster a community culture that prioritises the well-being of its members. The sessions received “excellent” ratings.



WA Community Leaders Information Session | 02/09/23

The Social Policy Group (SPG), in tandem with ECCWA, facilitated an information session for community leaders about the Yes23 Referendum, focusing on multicultural communities by providing politically and issue neutral information and engagement.

Feedback

Attendees provided valuable insights and feedback during and after the session. Key points included:

Accessibility

There was a strong emphasis on the need for multilingual resources and interpreters to ensure all community members have access to clear and accurate information.

Cultural Sensitivity

Attendees highlighted the importance of culturally sensitive materials and outreach methods to resonate with diverse communities.

Engagement Strategies

Suggestions were made for community forums and workshops to educate and engage community members effectively.

Voting Assistance

Leaders stressed the need for assistance with the voting process, particularly for those unfamiliar with the Australian electoral system.

Impact on Communities

The session consulted and engaged community leaders to discuss how the Australian Electoral Commission can best service the needs of the CaLD Community in the lead up to the referendum. Discussion was also had on how to best inform and help community members to participate in the referendum.

Statistics

There were 18 attendees, representing the following organisations:

- AMWA
- Chung Wah
- North Metropolitan Tafe
- Umbrella Multicultural Community Care Services Inc
- Kitwek Association
- OACWA
- Samskruthi Perth
- Ilankai Tamil Sangnam
- The Turkish Australian Culture House Inc
- AFG
- WMFG

Diverse Voices, Common Cause | 30/04/24

ECCWA hosted an interactive information session to discuss experiences of racism within CaLD and Aboriginal communities. The event featured two guest speakers, Senior Noongar man, Jim Morrison, and Emeritus Professor of Sociology, Andrew Jakubowicz, from the University of Technology Sydney.

Impact on communities

Jim Morrison discussed the hardships still faced today by the Aboriginal community, showcasing his recent project, a documentary titled 'Genocide in the Wildflower State', about the Stolen Generation. Attendees became aware of the subtle yet exclusionary language still in use today that we assume is inclusionary, such as the term 'reconciliation,' and the tendency to generalise the distinct experiences of Aboriginal communities with those from CaLD communities.

Andrew Jakubowicz spoke about his book, 'Multicultural Arc. Making Multicultural Australia: past, present and future'. Attendees were informed on the journey to multiculturalism in Australia, analysing government policies, ideologies and popular attitudes, and discussing systemic racism and inequality. Five key themes included the place of First Nations in a multicultural society, the problems of racism, the challenges of communication and representation, the shredding of research capacity, and the creation of best fit institutions.

Feedback

Discussion was also had on improving diversity and inclusion in the workplace. Feedback from attendees suggested the following:

- Ensuring that the profile of organisations shows a pattern that reflects the diversity of the community at all levels, especially higher up in the power hierarchy
- Opportunities to walk in other people's shoes
- Collaboration with CaLD people must be direct and explicit in marketing
- Hold regular informal events or meetings for the employees to get together and break the ice between staff. This will also be a good opportunity for staff members to break the cycle of possible stereotypes about one another.

Statistics

There were 18 attendees, coming from the following organisations:

- Yokai
- Bringing Them Home WA
- Yugal Club of WA
- Umbrella
- Curtin University
- Australian Religious Response to Climate Change Symphony of Peace Prayers



My SHiFT: Mental Health, You, Sexual Harassment, & Suicide Awareness Training | June 2024

In collaboration with Lifeline WA, ECCWA hosted a series of four training sessions for CaLD community members and leaders, and for those working within CaLD communities.

Workshop 1:

Talking About Mental Health (06/06/2024) - 4 attendees

Workshop 2:

Supporting Yourself and Others (13/06/2024) - 11 attendees

Workshop 3:

Talking About Sexual Harassment (20/06/2024) - 8 attendees

Workshop 4:

Talking About Suicide (27/06/2024) - 6 attendees

- Zimbabwe Association of WA
- The Spiers Centre
- Circle Green
- KCWA
- Kitwek Association
- City of Wanneroo South Sudan Youth
- Individually affiliated

Impact on Communities

By focusing on critical areas such as mental health, sexual harassment, and suicide awareness, the training equips community leaders and members with the necessary competencies to address these sensitive issues within their organisations, encouraging good governance. The sessions empowered community leaders to take proactive steps in promoting safe and supportive environments, and foster a community culture that prioritises the well-being of its members. The sessions received “excellent” ratings.



COMMUNITY NETWORK FORUMS

Allies in Colour Networking Event | 11/08/23

Hosted by the Centre of Multicultural Political Engagement, Literacy, and Leadership (COMPELL), Allies in Colour, and ECCWA at Tribe Perth in Kings Park, this network forum aimed to strengthen intercultural bonds and encourage greater community engagement in Australian politics. This inaugural ECCWA Multicultural Networking event was a significant step towards fostering political interest and enhancing connections among diverse cultural groups.

Strategic Roadmap 2023-2026 | 14/09/23

ECCWA hosted a community network forum to present our Strategic Roadmap for 2023-2026, developed using survey insights from member organisations. The forum was attended by 19 representatives from various CaLD associations. Feedback was highly positive, with 17 attendees emphasising the importance of ECCWA's advocacy for CaLD communities and calling for more face-to-face consultations and community network forums to keep members informed and engaged with ECCWA's efforts and objectives in WA.

COMMUNITY NETWORK FORUMS

International Students Festival | 25/05/24

The International Students Festival took place at Cannington Leisureplex and was organised by ECCWA's Anbumoly Kuppusamy. The event was supported by ECCWA, the City of Canning and Hillview Intercultural Community Centre, with co-sponsors including P MEC Pathway Migration & Education Consultants, Perth Caribbean Association, ECU Student Guild, and Murdoch Guild. The festival took place at the Cannington Leisureplex, providing a supportive and inclusive environment for international students to feel welcome in Western Australia. With over 150 attendees, the festival featured a variety of industry and guild stalls, offering valuable information on migration and visas. The event also showcased cultural performances, giving participants a glimpse into the rich diversity of the international student community. Additionally, students had the chance to meet and engage with student leaders and community leaders. The Education and Career Pathways panel discussion also offered insights and guidance for future career prospects.



Intercultural Dance Concert | 02/06/2024

The Intercultural Dance Concert, organised by the Cultural Ambassadors of the City of Canning and led by Anbumoly Kuppusamy and Cynthi Yapa, brought together 150 attendees for an evening of cultural celebration. Supported by ECCWA, the event aimed to promote culture and engage CaLD communities through vibrant performances. The audience enjoyed an array of cultural dances, including Bharathanatyam, Russian dance, Bangladeshi dance, a Sri Lankan drumming team, Bollywood dance, Oyilattam from Tamil Nadu, and Chinese dance and orchestra.





CONSULTATIONS

ALL IS WELL | 17/05/2024

Advancing Learning and Living: International Students Wellbeing Enhancement for Learning and Living

ECCWA hosted an online consultation and survey for international students in WA regarding mental health and wellbeing. The findings revealed barriers such as long wait times, lack of awareness about available services, and the necessity for culturally sensitive support. There is a growing recognition in Western Australia among universities, mental health professionals, and government agencies of the importance of implementing culturally competent support services, improving social support, and reducing access barriers, however, the challenges still exist.

Impact on Communities

The consultation and survey highlighted the mental health needs of international students through comprehensive surveys and consultations. The findings revealed barriers such as long wait times, lack of awareness about available services, and the necessity for culturally sensitive support. There is a growing recognition in Western Australia among universities, mental health professionals, and government agencies of the importance of implementing culturally competent support services, improving social support, and reducing access barriers, however, the challenges still exist.

Statistics

Through the survey, we received 86 responses, and had eight participants join us for the online consultation. The consultation participants came from countries including Pakistan, Canada, Malaysia, Singapore and Mauritius.

Feedback

Participants expressed a strong need for counselling and therapy services, with many highlighting long wait times as a major barrier. They also emphasised the importance of culturally relevant support, including counsellors who understand their cultural backgrounds. Social support and community-building activities were also identified as crucial for improving mental health. The feedback suggests that enhancing cultural competence among service providers and increasing the availability of mental health resources are essential steps to support international students effectively.

The final report can be find on our [website](#).

CONSULTATIONS

Multiculturalism and the Human Services Consultation 09/05/2024

This consultation, facilitated by Suresh Rajan and organised by Ananda Barton at the Warren Blackwood Human Services Network, provided a comprehensive discussion on various issues impacting multicultural communities, particularly from rural and regional perspectives

Impact on Communities

The two-hour session highlighted the following key areas of concern:

- **Terrorism and Religion:** The discussion addressed the implications of incidents like those at Rossmoyne School and the challenges surrounding the Prayer Room there, reflecting on the broader impact on community relations and safety perceptions.
- **Government Policies:** The session delved into the four pillars of government policy on multiculturalism, including the Charter of Multiculturalism, Language Services Policy, Anti-Racism Legislation, and the Substantive Equality Program, evaluating their effectiveness and areas for improvement.
- **Disability Issues and CaLD Intersection:** Issues of ostracism within CaLD communities were discussed, highlighting the need for more inclusive practices and support mechanisms.
- **Interaction between Aboriginal and Multicultural Communities:** The need for better collaboration between Aboriginal and multicultural communities was stressed, particularly in light of recent political developments such as the Voice referendum and its aftermath.
- **Service Delivery in Remote Areas:** The discussion also focused on how these issues uniquely impact service delivery in remote and regional areas, underscoring the necessity for tailored approaches to meet diverse community needs.

Statistics

The consultation was attended by 10 people, reflecting a focused and engaged group of stakeholders committed to addressing the complex intersection of multiculturalism and human services in rural and regional contexts. Participants represented the following ethnic communities: Indian, Somali, Italian, and Chinese, with the rest of the participants coming from an Anglo background representing services providers who were learning about CaLD issues.

Feedback

Post-consultation feedback indicated a significant improvement in participants' understanding of the issues discussed. Attendees reported increased awareness and a greater ability to identify and address the unique challenges faced by multicultural communities in their professional roles. The session provided practical insights and strategies that could be implemented in their respective organisations. Attendees also felt more educated on the history and current situation of multiculturalism in Australia.

ECCWA & Community

WA Women's Hall of Fame | 07/03/2024



WA Multicultural Awards 2024



ECCWA & Community

Various CaLD association events



ECCWA & Community



**Kerala Hindu Samajam -
Women's Day | 27/04/2024**



**The Iconic Confessions Show -
Launch | 28/04/2024**



Ambedkarite Buddhist Community - Knowledge Day | 12/05/2024



ECCWA & Community



Women of World Stage - "Our Stories, Our Songs - National Living Archive, The Premiere" | 25/05/2024



Mirrabooka Refugee Week - Freedom Cup | 15/06/2024

POLICY SUBMISSIONS

Feb

Submission to the Inquiry into Support for Children and Young People Exposed to Trauma Associated with Migration

Mar

National Anti-Racism Framework Multicultural Community Consultations

May

Submission to the Inquiry into Australian Apprenticeships Incentive System Strategic Review

June

Submission to Project 114 - Guardianship and Administration, recommendations for the review of the Act in supporting ethnically diverse communities in Western Australia

June

Submission to the Inquiry into Pathways to Post-School Success (DRAFT)

Submission to the Inquiry into Support for Children and Young People Exposed to Trauma Associated with Migration

ECCWA submitted a comprehensive report to the inquiry addressing the needs of children and young people exposed to trauma from migration due to humanitarian crises. The report highlights the necessity of extensive support mechanisms, including PTSD counselling, cultural introduction programs, and education support. ECCWA advocates for comprehensive teacher training on trauma-informed practices, increased funding for community organisations, and the integration of mental health services in schools. The submission also underscores the importance of a holistic, community-engaged approach to support refugee families, ensuring their successful integration and active participation in society. Personal testimonies and expert opinions are included to emphasise the critical need for these targeted interventions. ECCWA's recommendations aim to foster an inclusive, supportive environment for all children and young people affected by migration-related trauma.

National Anti-Racism Framework Multicultural Community Consultations

ECCWA conducted a consultation on 7th March 2024 to gather insights for the National Anti-Racism Framework, focusing on the experiences of CaLD individuals with disabilities. The consultation aimed to contribute to the Federation of Ethnic Communities Council of WA's (FECCA) submission for the Federal Government's National Anti-Racism Framework. Key findings revealed systemic issues in healthcare, employment, housing, and community services, exacerbated by language barriers and discrimination. Participants highlighted the need for better interpreter services, non-discriminatory employment practices, and culturally sensitive healthcare and housing. Recommendations include enhanced language support, comprehensive cultural competency training, and policy reforms to ensure equitable opportunities and services for CaLD individuals with disabilities. The consultation emphasised the importance of addressing these challenges to foster a more inclusive and supportive environment.

Submission to the Inquiry into Australian Apprenticeships Incentive System Strategic Review

ECCWA submitted a report to the inquiry into the Australian Apprenticeships Incentive System, highlighting the barriers faced by ethnic communities in accessing and completing apprenticeships and traineeships. The report emphasises the cultural stigma, lack of awareness, and inadequate support networks that deter individuals from pursuing vocational training. ECCWA's recommendations include engaging community leaders and role models, implementing targeted outreach and support programs, and providing culturally sensitive mentorship. The submission underscores the importance of challenging misconceptions and promoting apprenticeships as respectable career options to foster an inclusive and skilled workforce in Australia.

Submission to Project 114 - Guardianship and Administration, recommendations for the review of the Act in supporting ethnically diverse communities in Western Australia

ECCWA submitted recommendations to Project 114, focusing on revising the Guardianship and Administration Act 1990 (WA) to better support culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities. The submission highlights key areas for improvement, including addressing language and communication barriers, enhancing cultural competence and awareness, and implementing a supported decision-making framework. ECCWA's recommendations aim to ensure that CALD individuals can effectively navigate the guardianship system, receive appropriate support, and have their cultural contexts respected in decision-making processes. By adopting these measures, the Act can become more inclusive and equitable, safeguarding the rights and well-being of CALD individuals in Western Australia.

Submission to the Inquiry into Pathways to Post-School Success (Draft)

ECCWA submitted a report to the inquiry into Pathways to Post-School Success, focusing on improving secondary education in Western Australia. The submission highlights critical issues such as student disengagement, insufficient parental involvement, limited student participation in decision-making, mental health challenges, curriculum relevance, and equity and inclusion. ECCWA's recommendations include creating engaging learning environments, strengthening school-community connections, providing comprehensive mental health support, promoting culturally responsive teaching, and integrating vocational and practical skills into the curriculum. By addressing these issues, ECCWA aims to enhance student engagement, support diverse learners, and prepare students for successful post-school pathways, ultimately contributing to the state's social and economic growth.

MEDIA RELEASES

1

ECCWA Endorses Joint Resolution and Supports Yes 23 Campaign

2

Call for Recognition and Increased Support for CALD Communities in WA State Budget

3

Welcoming New Strategies for Workforce Diversity and Inclusion

4

Swimming Lessons for CALD Residents in Response to Recent Drowning Tragedies

ECCWA issued four media releases addressing critical issues and initiatives. The first media release highlights our endorsement of a significant joint resolution and our support for the Yes 23 Campaign. The second urges the state government to allocate more resources and recognition to culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities in the upcoming WA State Budget. In the third release, we express our support for innovative approaches to enhance diversity and inclusion within the workforce. Lastly, the fourth release focuses on our initiative to provide essential swimming lessons to CALD residents, aiming to prevent future drowning incidents and promote water safety.

GRANTS

ECCWA CORE FUNDING

\$120,000 from Office of Multicultural Interest (OMI) was received for the financial year 2023-2024.

SPEAK MY LANGUAGE (SML) PROJECT

In partnership with ECCNSW, ECCWA received funding of \$99,550 to run SML from November 2022 - July 2024.

GENESIS PROJECT

Genesis received \$194,030 in funding for 2022-2024 from the Department of Social Services, through the Strong and Resilient Communities Inclusive Communities Grant.

YES 23 Campaign

ECCWA received \$8,550 in funding from the 2023 Yes Alliance Capacity Fund Grant from the Australian Communities Foundation (ACF) to undertake initiatives to support the Yes 23 Campaign and the Voice to Parliament.

FECCA

ECCWA received \$8,000 in funding from FECCA from the National Anti-Racism Framework Multicultural Community Consultations grant for our Anti-Racism Consultation held in March 2024. We also submitted and received a grant for \$5,000 under the same project grant to hold our own event titled, CAiRE: Community Anti-Racism Initiatives and Empowerment, in May 2024.

STAFF, VOLUNTEERS AND STUDENTS

ECCWA employed the following staff for 2023-2024:

- **Three part-timers to the equivalent of 0.925 FTE**
- **Three positions funded by SML and Genesis**
- **One casual position**
- **Two voluntary positions with project-based pay on a casual basis**

Through the McCusker Centre for Citizenship Internship program, Edith Cowan University, and Curtin University, ECCWA hosted eight interns, with two of them continuing casual/part-time employment with the organisation.

The board is completely voluntary, with seven members volunteering their time to the commitments of the organisation.

ECCWA is proud of the team that worked so hard during this past year to ensure that the needs of the CaLD community were addressed.

TREASURER'S REPORT



I am pleased to present the financial report for the Ethnic Communities Council of Western Australia Inc. as audited by AMW Audit for the period ending 30 June 2024.

Financial Overview

- **Income:** Our total income has decreased by 6% compared to the previous period. This decline was primarily due to lower grant and project revenue.
- **Expenses:** In contrast, our total expenses have reduced by 24%. This reduction reflects our ongoing efforts to streamline operations and maintain financial discipline across all departments.
- **Surplus:** We are pleased to report a surplus of \$92,186, demonstrating our continued financial health despite the slight drop in income.

Acknowledgments

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to ex-CEO Bailey and his team for their outstanding work in managing both the operations and financials of the organization with such efficiency and professionalism. Their efforts have contributed significantly to ECCWA financial stability.

Additionally, I would like to express our gratitude to AMW Audit for their thorough and diligent auditing services. Their expertise has been invaluable in ensuring the accuracy and transparency of ECCWA financial reporting.

Conclusion

While we experienced reduction in income, our efforts to reduce costs have allowed us to maintain a healthy surplus. Looking ahead, we will continue to focus on maximizing operational efficiency while exploring new revenue streams to sustain and grow our financial position.

Thank you to all members, staff, and volunteers who contribute to our continued success.



Ethnic Communities Council
of Western Australia Inc

ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCIL OF WA INC.

ABN 91 163 351 869

SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL REPORT

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024



Ethnic Communities Council of Western Australia Inc.

ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCIL OF WA INC.
ABN 91 163 351 869
SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

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Ethnic Communities Council of Western Australia Inc.

Statement by the Committee

For the year ended 30 June 2024

The Committee has determined that the Ethnic Communities Council of WA Inc. is not a reporting entity and that this Special Purpose Financial Report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in note 1 to the financial statements.

The Committee declares that in the Committee's opinion:

- a) There are reasonable grounds to believe that the Association is able to pay all of its debts, as and when they become due and payable; and
- b) The financial statements and notes satisfy the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012.

Signed on behalf of the Association in accordance with subsection 60.15(2) of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Regulations 2022* by:

Sign:

Name: Sadhana Bose
Board Chair

Name: Theresa Ng
Treasurer

Dated this 18th day of September 2024



Ethnic Communities Council of Western Australia Inc.

Committees' Report

For the year ended 30 June 2024

Committee Members

Name	Designation
Dr Sadhana Bose	Board Chair
Dr Divya Sharma	Vice President
Theresa Ng	Treasurer
Emem Udo LLB GDLP	Acting Secretary
Meggie Collie	Board Member
Neelam Wadhvani	Board Member
Syed Muzaffar Ahmed	Board Member

Principal Activities

The Ethnic Communities Council of Western Australia, established in 1975, has been providing advocacy services for multicultural groups and communities in Western Australia for over 44 years and is a member of the National Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia (FECCA). Through its various programs over the years, ECCWA has been able to provide various forms of advocacy and support to its members. ECCWA has over 80 Community and Organisational members across the State of Western Australia and has relationships with various Government agencies at the Local, State and Federal levels. This new website will inform you of the various services and programs the Council provides.

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 with member non-government and stakeholders to ensure:

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



Ethnic Communities Council of Western Australia Inc.

Going Concern

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

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

Sign: _____

Name: Sadhana Bose
Board Chair

Name: Theresa Ng
Treasurer

Dated this 18th day of September 2024



Ethnic Communities Council of Western Australia Inc.

Income and Expenditure Statement
Ethnic Communities Council of WA Inc.
For the year ended 30 June 2024

Account	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Trading Income		
East Income - Client Fees	-	97
ECCWA Membership (Awaiting Approval)	150	-
ECC Member Subscriptions/Fee	3,780	1,320
FECCA Projects	13,000	10,000
SML (FECCA) – Project Income	100,003	-
Capacity Building Training	138	-
Sitting Fees	660	-
OMI - Membership Support & Sector Development Program	120,000	120,000
DSS - Genesis	194,030	193,578
Hire of ECCWA Facilities	9,120	9,795
Project Income	8,550	157,686
Total Trading Income	449,430	492,477
Gross Surplus	449,430	492,477
Other Income		
Interest Income	1,642	167
Annual Leave Adjustment	3,837	-
Reversal of LSL Accrued	8,202	-
Total Other Income	13,681	167
Operating Expenses		
Advertising	2,170	18,496
AGM/MC/EC Meetings/Functions	842	5,595
Annual Leave Accrual	-	1,961
Bank Fees	155	139
Cannington Rental Costs	-	12,718
Catering	6,472	-
Cleaning	5,976	4,600
Computer & IT Expenses	8,840	7,867
Conference & Other Sponsorship	-	1,564
Conference Room Hire	1,186	-
Conference/Seminar/Legal Fees	-	3,368
Consultants	4,244	45,767
Consulting & Accounting	5,117	6,449
Depreciation	8,006	8,593
East - Client Emergency Expenses	-	2,614
FBT Adjustment Expenses	116	-
FECCA Meeting Expenses	-	52

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



Ethnic Communities Council of Western Australia Inc.

Income and Expenditure Statement
Ethnic Communities Council of WA Inc.
For the year ended 30 June 2024

Account	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Operating Expenses (cont'd)		
First Aid Expenses	8,175	-
General Expenses	1,228	1,438
Genesis Programs and Events	23,386	-
Honorarium	150	-
Insurance	7,006	247
Insurance - Association Liability	-	3,508
Insurance - Business Combined	-	4,295
LSL Accrual	-	1,807
Membership Fees	165	150
Office Cleaning	-	1,940
Office Expenses	11,306	6,934
Parking Expenses	14	221
Photocopier Lease & Printing Expense	4,218	4,401
Postage	182	25
Printing & Stationery	5,701	1,396
Project Evaluation	5,000	-
Rates & Taxes	291	129
Repairs & Maintenance	1,001	-
Sitting Fees Expenses	158	-
Subscriptions	2,245	1,790
Superannuation	23,631	30,627
Telephone & Internet	4,384	2,964
Trainings	1,170	2,963
Travel – National	3,263	1,304
Volunteer Grant – Expenses	-	950
Wages and Salaries	225,127	302,435
Total Operating Expenses	370,925	489,307
Net Surplus	92,186	3,337

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



Ethnic Communities Council of Western Australia Inc.

Statement of Financial Position

Ethnic Communities Council of WA Inc.

As at 30 June 2024

Account	30 Jun 2024	30 Jun 2023
Assets	\$	\$
Current Assets		
Bendigo 156354797	211,854	142,999
PayPal - ECCWA	(243)	437
Term Deposit 169 617 198	31,080	30,175
Term Deposit 169617172	31,080	30,396
Accounts Receivable	3,008	-
Petty Cash	300	100
Total Current Assets	277,080	204,107
Non-Current Assets		
ECC building at Cost	26,149	26,149
Less Accumulated Depreciation on Building	(19,588)	(18,804)
North Perth Building Account	110,000	110,000
Accumulated Depreciation on North Perth Building	(21,706)	(14,966)
Office Equipment	6,406	6,406
Less Accumulated Depreciation on Office Equipment	(3,046)	(2,564)
Total Non-Current Assets	98,215	106,221
Total Assets	375,295	310,328
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	17,402	1,743
Funds Payable to ECCNSW	4,978	-
FBT Salary Sacrifice Liability	-	(116)
Grants in Advance - SML	-	49,775
GST	10,664	4,379
PAYG Withholdings Payable	4,326	3,586
Superannuation Payable	7,050	1,045
Wages Payable - Payroll	715	(97)
Annual Leave Provision	10,946	14,782
Total Current Liabilities	56,079	75,095
Non-current Liabilities		
Long Service Leave Provision	-	8,202
Total Non-current Liabilities	-	8,202
Total Liabilities	56,079	83,298
Net Assets	319,216	227,030

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



Ethnic Communities Council of Western Australia Inc.

Statement of Financial Position
Ethnic Communities Council of WA Inc.
As at 30 June 2024

Account		30 Jun 2024	30 Jun 2023
Equity		\$	\$
	Current Year Surplus	92,186	3,337
	Retained Earnings	140,648	223,693
	Sector Development Reserve	66,382	-
	Committed Funds for Genesis Reserve	20,000	-
Total Equity		319,216	227,030

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



Ethnic Communities Council of Western Australia Inc.

Statement of Changes in Equity
Ethnic Communities Council of WA Inc.
For the year ended 30 June 2024

	Retained Earnings	Sector Development Reserve	Committed Funds for Genesis Reserve	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2022	223,694	-	-	223,694
Net Surplus for the year	3,337	-	-	3,337
Balance at 30 June 2023	227,030	-	-	227,030
Net Surplus for the year	92,186	-	-	92,186
Transfer to Reserves	(86,382)	66,382	20,000	-
Balance at 30 June 2024	232,834	66,382	20,000	319,216

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



Notes to the Financial Statements

Note 1. Statement of Material Accounting Policies

Basis of preparation

These are special purpose financial statements that have been prepared for the purposes of complying with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and the Associations Incorporation Act 2015, the Charitable Collections Act 1946 and associated regulations. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that the accounting policies adopted are appropriate to meet the needs of the members of Ethnic Communities Council of Western Australia.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs, modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities.

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the Association in the preparation of the special-purpose financial report. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

Accounting Policies

a. Property, Plant and Equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Plant and Equipment

Plant and Equipment are measured on the cost basis less depreciation and impairment losses.

The carrying amount of plant and equipment is reviewed annually by the committee to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount from these assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows that will be received from the assets' employment and subsequent disposal. The expected net cash flows have been discounted to their present values in determining recoverable amounts.

Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the Association and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. All other repairs and maintenance are charged to the income and expenditure statement during the financial period in which they are incurred.

Depreciation

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

The asset's residual values and useful lives are reviewed and adjusted, if appropriate, at each balance date.

An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains and losses are included in the income and expenditure statement.



b. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at-call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities on the statement of financial position.

c. Revenue

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

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

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

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

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

d. Income Tax

By virtue of its aims as set out in the constitution, the Association qualifies as an organisation specifically exempt from income tax under Section 50-45 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

e. Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of expense. Receivables and payables in the Statement of Financial Position are shown inclusive of GST.

f. Employment Entitlements

Provision is made for the Association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. Employee benefits that are expected to be settled within one year have been measured at the amount expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

Contributions are made by the association to employee superannuation fund and are charged as expenses when incurred.

g. Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Association has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result, and that outflow can be reliably measured.

h. Reserves

Nature and Purpose of Reserves

Reserves for Committed Funds for Genesis and Sector Development represent funds set aside from the Association's retained earnings to provide for specific future obligations, commitments, or contingencies. These reserves are maintained to ensure the financial sustainability and operational effectiveness of the Association.



Recognition and Measurement

Reserves are recognized for the need to provide for specific future obligations or projects.

Reserves are measured based on the actual amounts allocated by the Association. No subsequent remeasurement is performed unless the reserve is adjusted or utilized for its intended purpose.

Note 2. Related Party Transactions

The Committee Members act in an honorary capacity and are not paid for their services as Committee Members. There were no transactions with related parties during the 2024 year.

Note 3. Comparative figures

Certain comparative figures have been restated to conform with current year's presentation.

Note 4. Events after the reporting period

No other matter or circumstance has arisen since 30 June 2024 that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect the incorporated Association's operations, the results of those operations, or the incorporated Association's state of affairs in future financial years.



AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

To: the Committee members of Ethnic Communities Council of WA Inc.

In accordance with Subdivision 60-C of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, I am pleased to provide the following declaration of independence to the committee members of Ethnic Communities Council of WA Inc. As the lead director for the review of the financial report of Ethnic Communities Council of WA Inc. for the year ended 30 June 2024, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2024 there have been no contraventions of:

- the auditor independence requirements as set out in the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* in relation to the review; and
- any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the review.

Dated this 18th day of September 2024

AMW Audit

AMW AUDIT
Chartered Accountants

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'BJT' followed by a stylized flourish.

BILLY-JOE THOMAS
Director & Registered Company Auditor



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REVIEW REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCIL OF WA INC.

Report on the Financial Report

We have reviewed the accompanying financial report of Ethnic Communities Council of WA Inc. ("the Association") which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024, the income and expenditure statement, statement of changes in equity for the year ended on that date, notes to the financial statements comprising a summary of material accounting policies and the statement by committee.

Responsibilities of the Committee for the Financial Report

The committee members are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 to the financial report and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) Act 2012* and for such internal control as the committee members determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the financial report based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with Auditing Standard on Review Engagements ASRE 2415 *Review of a Financial Report: Company Limited by Guarantee or an Entity Reporting under the ACNC Act or Other Applicable Legislation or Regulation*, in order to state whether, on the basis of the procedures described, we have become aware of any matter that makes us believe that the financial report is not in accordance with the *ACNC Act* including: giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2024 and its performance for the year ended on that date; and complying with the Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 to the financial report and *ACNC Act*. ASRE 2415 requires that we comply with the ethical requirements relevant to the review of the financial report.

A review of a financial report consists of making enquiries, primarily of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters, and applying analytical and other review procedures. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards and consequently does not enable us to obtain assurance that we would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in an audit. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting our review, we have complied with the independence requirements of *ACNC Act*.

Conclusion

Based on our review, which is not an audit, we have not become aware of any matter that makes us believe that the financial report is not in accordance with the *ACNC Act* including:

- a) giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2024 and its performance for the year ended on that date; and
- b) complying with the Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 to the financial report and *ACNC Act*.

Emphasis of Matter- Basis of Accounting

Without further modifying our conclusion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist the Association to meet the requirements of the *ACNC Act*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

AMW Audit

AMW AUDIT

Chartered Accountants

Address: Unit 8, 210 Winton Road, Joondalup, Western Australia



BILLY-JOE THOMAS

Director & Registered Company Auditor

Dated at Perth, Western Australia this 18th day of September 2024



**Ethnic Communities Council of Western Australia
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