

April 2025

ECCWA.ORG.AU

NEWSLETTER



Ethnic Communities Council
of Western Australia Inc

April 2025

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Ethnic Communities Council of WA 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.

We acknowledge 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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President's Message

KAYA. WANJU.

The Noongar season of Djeran (April – May) is underway, and it brings with it a slight nip in the morning air and promise of cooler days. Like seasons, Western Australia's diverse demography too continues to influence the way we live, work and socialise.

It is with pleasure that I confirm the successful completion of one year by the current Board, despite numerous, inherited challenges. In April 2024, my stated vision for ECCWA included: A strong, cohesive, "can do" Board that works towards ECCWA's vision; financial transparency and enhanced prosperity within ECCWA; initiatives fostering the community's sense of belonging; and collaborations that empower our most vulnerable ethnic communities to be able to participate in WA's thriving economy and society.

To quote from my first newsletter message in April 2024, "I was drawn to ECCWA because of the challenges these changes of a rapidly growing CaLD population in WA bring- in terms of diverse and unmet needs in health, education, employment and social care (to list a few); challenges of new and emerging communities from Africa, South America and Eastern Europe; challenges of survival faced by many vulnerable asylum seekers and refugee families. Yet, this is welcome change for it demonstrates the safe- haven that Australia is for many people from around the world".

The journey so far has been promising and fulfilling, though demanding. I am grateful to each one of my board members and everyone in my executive team for not only embracing the challenges of organisational reforms across governance, management and operations but also delivering with a smile and for staying the journey. Over the last twelve months, my board and my executive team have had to continuously evolve and innovate to connect, communicate, deliver and create an inclusive WA through capacity building, strong engagement with existing stakeholders while forging new relationships.

With resilience as our mantra, we have delivered an amended constitution that was passed unanimously in last month's SGM; we have gone beyond metropolitan Perth to begin serving CaLD communities living and working in remote and rural Australia; we recruited a highly experienced chief executive officer who has since developed a small but effective executive team that has worked hard at delivering the operations; we continue to work on rolling out transparent and effective governance structures; we have successfully received grants that will see us working on new community partnerships and more.

President's Message

CONTINUED

Yet, the journey has not been easy. We continue to grapple with some challenges we inherited from the past while we prepare ourselves for new challenges that come from the reforms underway. With state elections behind us and federal elections due on 3rd May, social and healthcare policies continue to be key for ECCWA. The sands continue to shift.

For successful collaborations, positive relationships and teamwork are two "must haves". Towards this, the experience and cheerful steer by our CEO (Angelena Fixter) continues to keep us collectively focussed on the larger picture and long-term sustainability of ECCWA.

This board is here to serve and we remain accessible and accountable. Towards this, every newsletter continues to shine the spotlight on one member of the board. The April edition has Eugene Low sharing why he chose to join ECCWA and what drives him to give back to the community.

I conclude with another statement from my April 2024 Newsletter message, "Efforts of many decades have led to many doors opening for ethnically diverse individuals in WA but there is plenty of scope in how there can be a fairer, more inclusive landscape in sectors of education, employment, health, neighbourhoods and more. Open doors become attractive when one feels wanted, included and valued. By doing so, we could ensure lasting impact on hundreds of thousands of WA residents over the next 30 years. For it is my belief that, though every life is finite, it can have infinite impact if used for the greater good". I thank my board and my executive team for demonstrating this in practice.

Always available to connect and communicate, you are welcome to email me on president@eccwa.org.au. Alternatively, I am very keen to see and hear about the fantastic work that you or your organisation is doing in the CaLD space.

Have an enjoyable read!



Dr Sadhana Bose



CEO's Message

Members of ECCWA

Dear Members,

Thank you to all of those who responded to our request for support towards our new projects. It is much appreciated, and we have been heartened by the response.

Event: Take Flight

As time are changing rapidly at ECCWA, I wanted to keep you all in the loop with progress that we have made to date. We are as you know, currently awaiting the outcomes of three applications that we have submitted for some exciting projects. As a consequence, we are holding an informal but intimate event titled, *Take Flight*, for all of our members, stakeholders, and friends of ECCWA. We would love for you to join us for an informal evening of discussion, and information, as well as the opportunity to join a members focus group to help us shape membership for the future. We would really welcome your thoughts.

Date: Tuesday 20th May 2025

Time: 5:30pm-7:30pm

Location: Hillview Intercultural Community Centre, Bentley.

RSVP: Tuesday 13th May 2025 (to Laura on info@eccwa.org.au or telephone 08 9227 5322)

This evening is set to be a charming gathering brimming with entertainment, networking opportunities, and a tantalising array of culinary delights from every corner of the globe. As we come together, attendees will have the unique chance to dive into the inspiring journey of ECCWA over the past six months. For those of you who could not join us for our International Women's Day event at the Blueroom Theatre, we will be showing some of the speeches of our keynote speakers. You will also have the opportunity to meet them. Keep an eye out for further information on the event.

Emem, our Board Secretary, is leading our membership discussions and you will have opportunities to meet with our Board.

Recruitment

In addition, we would like to inform you that we will be posting some adverts as we transition from the turnaround team to the permanent team that will be in place for ECCWA for now and the future. The first of those positions are an **administrative position part-time and social media guru** for a few hours per week, based at our offices at 20 View St. There will be the flexibility for people to be able to work some hours from home due to the nature of the business that ECCWA carries out. We are seeking representatives from our ethnic communities across WA and you will also need to be a resident of WA as we seek to embed this new team.

Once again, I take this opportunity to thank you for your support of ECCWA.

Yours sincerely,

Angelena Fixter
Chief Executive Officer



Board Spotlight



EUGENE LOW

Eugene is an engineer by trade; he graduated from Curtin University with a 2nd Upper Class in Bachelor of Computer Systems Engineering.

He is currently working in a local manufacturing company with global presence as an Account manager servicing a wide variety of businesses including the mining sector, logistics and many more. Before this, he worked at a managerial level in multinational corporations such as Western Digital, and NEC, in addition to a family run business. This provided him the opportunity to travel extensively and expose him to various cultures around the world.

Eugene enjoys being a volunteer and this started in his youth selling flags for various charity organisations and serving the less fortunate. He was a Guild counsellor and a student leader with the International Student Council at Curtin University. He also served as a Grassroot leader back in Singapore for several years. When he came back to Perth, he volunteered as a coach and team manager for local soccer clubs and is the current Assistant Secretary for the Chung Wah Association that represents and supports the Chinese community in Western Australia.

Eugene migrated to Western Australia in 2013 with his wife and three children. He is very active and enjoys outdoor activities, going for runs, and keeping fit. Being an overseas student and immigrant himself, he understands the difficulty and challenges moving to a new environment and actively supports and assists newcomers in this area. He believes that reducing racism and fostering multiculturalism in our society begins with open communication, cultural exchange, and treating everyone with equal respect.

As a board member, he is eager to draw on his experience, knowledge, and skills to support ECCWA in achieving its vision and mission. He is committed to helping build a strong foundation for the organisation through effective policies and regulations that enable sustainable growth.

ECCWA Updates



MICHELLE FABIANA

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT OFFICER

Over the past few weeks, I have been working closely with the finance team to support budgeting and expense allocation processes across ECCWA's programs. My main focus has been ensuring that expenses are properly distributed among our various grants and activities, especially the OMI grant, to maintain financial accuracy and compliance. This work involves reviewing expense reports, communicating with different teams, and updating records to reflect the appropriate budget lines.

This process is essential for helping ECCWA remain transparent, organised and ready for future reporting. It also supports the organisation in making the best use of its resources while continuing to deliver valuable services to the community.

I feel grateful to be part of such a meaningful mission and am learning so much through this experience.

ECCWA Updates

As Community Liaison Specialist, I have been busy in the community. Here are some of the projects I have been a part of so far this year.

Culturally Diverse Advisory Group (CDAG)

I was honoured to be invited as a member of the CDAG where I had the opportunity to contribute to meaningful conversations around inclusion and representation.



ANBUMOLY KUPPUSAMY
COMMUNITY LIAISON SPECIALIST

Following my appointment, I was also invited to deliver a presentation on "Cultural Engagement"—a topic close to my heart. This event brought together a range of stakeholders, service providers, and staff from the City of Belmont. It was an incredible platform to connect, collaborate, and share insights, ultimately fostering strong relationships. These connections have since led to exciting new opportunities for collaboration—some of which have come with funding support, allowing for even greater community impact.

Speak My Language (SML)

The SML project took an exciting new turn this year with the introduction of video storytelling, moving beyond its previous focus on single-language audio recordings. I'm proud to share that we successfully completed four video recordings in four language pairs: Tamil, Italian, Burmese, and Turkish. Although the original KPI was set at three videos, we were thrilled to exceed expectations by producing an additional one. Each session featured two individuals sharing their lived experiences as a pair, offering rich, bilingual narratives that reflect the diversity of our communities. ECCWA is proud to have played a key role in this milestone, producing four powerful videos that highlight the life journeys of eight individuals with disabilities, showcasing resilience, identity, and cultural pride.

Harmony Week Highlights

Walking Together in Unity

To mark Harmony Week, ECCWA organised a Mindful Walk at Canning River Eco Education Centre (CREEC) in Wilson on Saturday, 15th March. Participants from the Genesis program came together for a reflective 2km walk through the park, sharing their thoughts and personal reflections on the theme of living harmoniously across cultures and without discrimination. The event included a welcome briefing and a thoughtful debrief at the end of the walk, helping to ground the experience in the values of Harmony Week. A few children also joined the group, adding to the spirit of community and inclusiveness. The day concluded with the sharing of delicious culturally diverse food, creating a warm space for connection and celebration of our shared humanity.

City of Vincent Partnership

This event is proudly delivered in collaboration with ECCWA, the Perth Asian Community Centre, the Castellorizian Association of WA, and Welcoming Cities. The partnership involved sourcing performers from diverse cultural groups and networks, curating food vendors through established contacts, and fostering a shared exchange of ideas and concepts throughout the planning process.

ECCWA Updates

Citizen Connector Project: Building Compassionate Communities

ECCWA is excited to launch the Citizen Connector Project, a new three-year initiative that officially began in March. Citizen Connector workshop is a capacity building training for bilingual CaLD community representatives (also known as citizen connectors) to build knowledge about how a "Compassionate Communities" approach could be adapted to improve social connectedness, death literacy and grief literacy within CaLD communities.

The training has equipped citizen connectors with skills and knowledge to offer compassionate conversations and advocacy through culturally appropriate, respectful and safe approaches in their communities. This initiative also aims to better understand older people's cultural and linguistic needs, gaps and preferences for end-of-life and bereavement.

The initiative is a collaboration with the Perron Institute and the South West Compassionate Communities Network. As part of the launch, seven community representatives participated in a full day of training on 27th March at the Hillview Intercultural Centre in Bentley. This training marks the first step in a journey toward empowering grassroots leaders to foster connection, empathy, and wellbeing in their communities.

Medicare Urgent Care Clinics

Partnership program with Cultural Perspectives on behalf of the Australian Department of Health and Aged Care. This partnership focused on Medicare Urgent Care Clinics (MUCCs). MUCCs are a free, walk-in service that can be a great alternative to emergency rooms or General Practitioners (GP) visits, treating patients for conditions that do not require hospital stays including minor infections, fractures, sprains, cuts and burns.

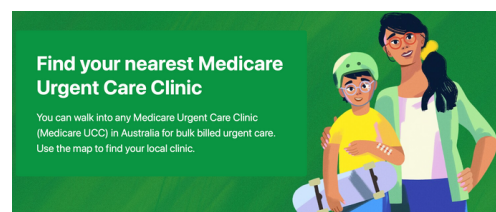
As of 2024, there were 58 new clinics across Australia, and ECCWA felt grateful to be part of this project to raise community awareness of MUCC accessibility, eligibility, and benefits.

ECCWA delivered the information by putting up posters and sharing flyers in multiple languages with communities: The information was shared through:

- a. Public places such as shops, schools and community centres
- b. With community leaders (via online/emails/physical posters) – for them to share among their community members in their languages
- c. Through word of mouth via informal group discussions

More information can be found at the following link:

<https://www.health.gov.au/find-a-medicare-ucc>



ECCWA Photos

CULTURALLY DIVERSE ADVISORY GROUP



SPEAK MY LANGUAGE



Burmese



Turkish



Italian



Tamil

ECCWA Photos

HARMONY WEEK: WALKING TOGETHER IN UNITY



ECCWA Photos

HARMONY WEEK: CITY OF VINCENT,



CITIZEN CONNECTOR PROJECT



FEDERAL ELECTION



At election time, we come together to help shape Australia's future. Election day is Saturday 3 May 2025, and it's important that members of our culturally and linguistically diverse communities know how to make their vote count.

The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) has developed a stakeholder toolkit to provide you with downloadable information and resources to share with eligible voters in your community.

These resources are translated into up to 34 languages.

Stakeholder toolkit

You can find translated resources on the 2025 federal election in this toolkit, including:

- An interactive practise voting tool
- Social media content
- In-language education sessions

Download it [here](#).

Voter Stories

Hear from a number of community members as they share their own experiences of voting in Australia.

Watch the in-language videos [here](#).

FEDERAL ELECTION

Stop and Consider Fact Sheet

Translated fact sheet that raises awareness of false or misleading information that might be circulating and encourages voters to check the source of electoral information that they read, see, and hear in this election.

Download the fact sheet [here](#).

Voting from overseas

If you will be overseas during the election period, check your voting options. Voting services differ depending on which country you're in. You may be able to vote at an in-person voting centre or apply for a postal vote.

View overseas voting options [here](#).



Community



Discover how our many different cultures influence how we work, communicate and engage.

Presented by Auspire – Australia Day Council WA, 'Empowering Diverse Teams: Influences and Opportunities of Intercultural Collaboration', will explore the challenges and benefits of cultural diversity, how these can impact collaboration and cohesion, and what makes for a successful culturally diverse team.

Facilitated by intercultural consultant, Rika Asaoka, this interactive workshop will involve small group activities, exercises, research and discussion.

Finish the session with the confidence, practical tools and essential framework to effectively work with and support a culturally diverse team, in which everyone feels empowered to contribute and succeed.

Date: Wednesday 21 May 2025

Time: 8.30am – 12.30pm (AWST)

Location: Forrest Research Foundation, 21 Hackett Drive, Crawley 6000

More information and bookings: [Auspire website](#)

Community



This National Reconciliation Week (27 May – 3 June), start your journey towards greater awareness and understanding of Aboriginal culture and history.

Auspire's next Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Workshop will take place on Wednesday 28 May in Perth.

Through truth telling and different perspectives, this informative and engaging workshop will uncover the impact of Australia's history on the experiences and lifestyles of Aboriginal People. The aim is to assist participants with knowledge and confidence to contribute to reconciliation in Australia.

This workshop is ideal for small group and individual bookings. Participants receive a free training booklet, a certificate of participation and a resources list to help continue their journey.

Date: Wednesday 28 May 2025

Time: 8am – 12pm AWST

Location: Bishops See, 235 St Georges Terrace, Perth 6000

Bookings: Available [here](#)

Community



What does the 2025 Federal Budget mean for carers?

While there aren't any new direct supports for carers, there are some broader measures which will impact your caring role.

Carers Australia has put together an easy-to-read summary of these measures which includes two new tax cuts, energy relief, changes to Medicare, increases to wages in key industries, provision of better access to Urgent Care Clinics and safeguards to the integrity of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

To read the 2025 Federal Budget Summary for Carers [click here](#).

Help Ensure Carers Are Prioritised this Federal Election

While these measures are helpful, the truth is that carers can't quit. And that's why Carers Australia is also launching a public appeal in the lead up to the Federal Election.

Did you know that if all the work that carers do was replaced by paid support staff, it would cost the Australian economy \$77.9 billion a year? That's why they are asking carers from every state to join them in ensuring that the wellbeing of carers is made a priority.

To find out more [click here](#).

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Ethnic Communities Council
of Western Australia Inc



Department of
Local Government, Sport
and Cultural Industries



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MULTICULTURAL INTERESTS