



**ETHNIC
COMMUNITIES
COUNCIL WA**

**EQUITY
NEWSLETTER**

SPRING -2019 EDITION

CONTENTS

	Page
Time We Walked the Talk Editorial	3
Uluru Statement from The Heart	4
Migration Amendment (Strengthening the Character Test) Bill 2019- ECCWA submission	6
Council argues balance is needed within gender not just across it	9
Don't coloured lives matter anymore? ECCWA media release	10
Christchurch is a timely reminder to swap Harmony Day to Harmony Week	11
Blueprint for Reform: Removing Barriers to Safety for Victims of Family Domestic Violence with Temporary Visas	13
You Quit. You Win article	15
WA's Interpreter Scholarship Program	16
President's musings	18

Editorial

Time We Walked the Talk

The First Nations National Constitutional Convention convened by the bipartisan-appointed Referendum Council, met in May 2017 and agreed on an approach to constitutional reform to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The unanimous outcome of the convention was the Uluru Statement from the Heart, which sought inter alia:

- Constitutional reforms to empower our Indigenous people and take their rightful place in our own country.
- The establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution.
- A Makarrata as the culmination of their agenda: the coming together after a struggle.
- A Makarrata Commission to supervise a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations and truth-telling about their history.

Former Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull rejected the “Voice Proposal” and Prime Minister Scott Morrison also rejected the Uluru statement’s call for an Indigenous voice to parliament by claiming that the body would constitute a “third chamber”. This claim has been rejected by most Indigenous leaders.

The Morrison government has since announced a co-design process with Indigenous people on “a voice to parliament”, with Indigenous leaders Tom Calma and Prof. Dr. Marcia Langton to co-chair a senior advisory group.

The ALP supports an Indigenous voice that is constitutionally enshrined and not just legislated; a position that Marcia Langton has publicly supported.

Minister Wyatt has said, “the process of consultation about designing the voice to parliament needed to reach the 800,000 Indigenous Australian voices – not just the First Nations leadership”. Accordingly, “Models will be workshopped with communities across urban, regional and remote Australia,”

ECCWA agrees with the Minister that “the best outcomes are achieved when Indigenous Australians are at the centre of decision-making and that for too long decision-making treated the symptoms rather than the cause.”

Conservatives within the government and the Coalition parties are strongly opposed to the constitutional enshrinement of a First Nations voice. This is reflected by the position of the Liberal MP Craig Kelly who has argued that “setting up separate structures, even if the representative model was legislated rather than constitutionally enshrined, risked creating a reverse form of what South Africa was a few years ago”.

ECCWA well understands the cautious approach that Minister Wyatt is taking given the strong opposition within his own party. Whilst ECCWA is strongly supportive of the Uluru Statement objectives, and back the call of indigenous leaders for its implementation with no changes, the outcome of the last federal election would suggest that issues such as this are best addressed through incremental change.

Therefore, albeit with reluctance, ECCWA supports the stance of the Minister, but urges the government to pledge that once Australians become comfortable with the legislated voice, it will back the move to a recommendation to enshrine the voice in the constitution.

ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART

We, gathered at the 2017 National Constitutional Convention, coming from all points of the southern sky, make this statement from the heart:

Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tribes were the first sovereign Nations of the Australian continent and its adjacent islands, and possessed it under our own laws and customs.

This our ancestors did, according to the reckoning of our culture, from the Creation, according to the common law from 'time immemorial', and according to science more than 60,000 years ago.

This sovereignty is a spiritual notion: the ancestral tie between the land, or 'mother nature', and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who were born therefrom, remain attached thereto, and must one day return thither to be united with our ancestors.

This link is the basis of the ownership of the soil, or better, of sovereignty. It has never been ceded or extinguished, and co-exists with the sovereignty of the Crown. How could it be otherwise?

That peoples possessed a land for sixty millennia and this sacred link disappears from world history in merely the last two hundred years? With substantive constitutional change and structural reform, we believe this ancient sovereignty can shine through as a fuller expression of Australia's nationhood.

Proportionally, we are the most incarcerated people on the planet. We are not an innately criminal people. Our children are alienated from their families at unprecedented rates. This cannot be because we have no love for them. And our youth

languish in detention in obscene numbers. They should be our hope for the future.

These dimensions of our crisis tell plainly the structural nature of our problem. This is the torment of our powerlessness.

We seek constitutional reforms to empower our people and take a rightful place in our own country. When we have power over our destiny our children will flourish. They will walk in two worlds and their culture will be a gift to their country.

We call for the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution.

Makarrata is the culmination of our agenda: the coming together after a struggle. It captures our aspirations for a fair and truthful relationship with the people of Australia and a better future for our children based on justice and self-determination.

We seek a Makarrata Commission to supervise a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations and truth-telling about our history.

In 1967 we were counted, in 2017 we seek to be heard.

We leave base camp and start our trek across this vast country.

We invite you to walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future.

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO THE MIGRATION AMMENDMENT BILL 2019

ECCWA SUBMISSION

1 Introduction/background

The Ethnic Communities Council of Western Australia (ECCWA) is the peak body for CaLD communities in WA and was established in 1980 for this purpose. It is pleased to provide this submission on Migration Amendment (Strengthening the Character Test) Bill 2019.

ECCWA agrees that “character considerations” are important to maintain the integrity of our Immigration Act and system. However, this needs to be implemented in a balanced and not arbitrary manner.

It is ironic that these changes are being proposed by a government that takes immense pride in claiming that they have restored integrity to our immigration system by their policy dictum of “we determine who comes to this country and under what circumstances”.

Having implemented such a policy it is extremely harsh to punish those who have committed offences under this bill much more severely than Australian citizens (by birth or through naturalisation) who have committed the same crimes.

Modern Australia is a product of waves of migration from all parts of the world and the government has ample evidence of the immense positive impact of our immigration on our economy, trade, social and cultural



development. It is also pertinent to note that in recent years, NES countries have been a significant source of our skilled migration. Arguably Australia has benefitted enormously from skilled and business migration and to a lesser extent other categories as well, at the expense of other countries that have paid for the health, education, training etc. of those who migrated to Australia under those categories. From an ethical perspective, it is questionable for Australia to cancel visas of those from whom it has benefitted and return them to countries when they have committed crimes.

Taking all of the above into account, ECCWA is of the view that education, skills training and awareness raising are better options than harsh punitive

measures to minimise/eliminate the occurrence of crimes covered by this Bill. We also urge the federal government as well as state and territory governments to ensure that a reasonable share of funding that they provide for mental health, parenting, family and domestic violence etc. are distributed to multicultural services providers to enable them to effectively reach out to minimise/eliminate the committal of crimes covered by this Bill.

It is ECCWA's understanding that only a miniscule minority of those who have been provided permanent residence in Australia are likely to commit offences that fall within the purview of this Bill. Many of the offences that are covered by this Bill are committed mostly by citizens and not non-citizens. The rule of the law applies to citizens and non-citizens alike when they commit such offences and so the latter are already punished for such offences by our legal system.

2 Proposed Insertion after paragraph 5C (1) (a) Definition of non-citizen

ECCWA's major concern about this bill relates to the time it now takes for a non-citizen to gain Australian Citizenship. What previously used to be just two years has become four and in practice it is much more, for a myriad of reasons including lack of identity papers from their countries of origin when they arrived in Australia under the Refugee or Humanitarian program, the lengthy waiting periods for processing applications because of inadequate resources being assigned for this by the government etc.

As a consequence of the above, people are left in an eternal state of non-citizenship. ECCWA would strongly argue that anyone who has been a permanent resident of Australia for four years and say six months should not be considered as a non-citizen for the purpose of the Bill. Many of these people are extremely vulnerable, not necessarily proficient in English and the offence they are convicted for may have resulted in a different

outcome had they had access to legal services, professional interpreting etc.

So we strongly recommend that there be a definition of non-citizen that takes into account the above. Ideally it should be tied to the period that needs to be served to qualify for Australian citizenship and not to an arbitrary finite period.

3 Proposed Insertion at the end of section 5C Designated offence

ECCWA is concerned about the definition of certain offences namely in the case of 4 (3) (a) (i) the threat of violence. ECCWA does not condone violence in any shape or form, but the mere threat of it should not constitute any offence that can lead to cancellation of a permanent resident visa and placing people in a stateless situation in some instances or at risk of serious harm due to deportation. These are people already subjected to Australian Law and they now face the consequence of their offence just like those who are citizens by birth or naturalisation. What makes people in such situations vulnerable is its link to 4 (3) (b) (iii) as imprisonment for a maximum term of not less than 2 years. So if a non-citizen commits an offence of threatening violence and the offence is punishable for a maximum term of not less than 2 years' imprisonment, but the punishment handed down is much less than 2 years, his/her visa can be cancelled under this Bill. This is not fair or reasonable and undermines our judicial system which has clearly viewed the "crime".

We also have some concerns about 4 (3) (a) (iii) breaching an order made by a court or tribunal for the personal protection of another person. ECCWA does not condone the breaching of court or tribunal orders, but wishes to draw the attention of the parliament that sometimes this could happen because the person does not understand the order let alone its consequences, because of lack of English proficiency, intellectual impairment, brain injury etc. Courts can take one or more of these factors in to account by way of mitigating circumstances in determining the punishment of for the same. So it is

possible that as per 4 (3) (b) (iii) such an offence could attract imprisonment for a maximum term of not less than 2 years, the punishment handed out could be much less.

So we strongly recommend that there be a definition of non-citizen that takes into account the above. Ideally it should be tied to the period that needs to be served to qualify for Australian citizenship and not to an arbitrary finite period.

4 Proposed Insertion after subsection 501(7)

ECCWA is extremely pleased that that a definition of punishment for an offence committed outside Australia has been included as follows. This will ensure that offences in non-democratic countries which persecute their citizens with harsh and punitive laws are not taken into account in determining an offence warranting cancellation of an Australian visa. (7AA) (c) for an offence against a law in force in a foreign country—if it were assumed that the act or omission constituting the offence had taken place in the Australian Capital Territory:

- (i) The act or omission would have constituted an offence (the Territory offence) against a law in force in that Territory; and
- (ii) The Territory offence would have been punishable as mentioned in subparagraph (b) (i), (ii) or (iii).

However, we are concerned about (7AA) (a) (i) “the threat of violence” and (7AA) (b) (iii) for the reasons mentioned under paragraph 3.

5 Conclusions

Only four countries in the region (Australia, Fiji, Philippines and South Korea) have ratified the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and Australia and New Zealand are the only two countries in the region that have ratified the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. These conventions are complemented by other international human rights treaties and provisions relevant to the right to a nationality.

As an immigrant nation and one that has taken a leadership role as mentioned above to ensure the reduction of Statelessness it would very regrettable if Australia proceeds with a Bill which will in fact make people that it accepted on its terms in the first place, stateless for crimes that should be handled no differently if it were committed by Australian Citizens.

ECCWA does not condone violence or crime in any shape or form, but strongly urges the government to positively consider the recommendations in this submission, if it still intends to pursue with this Bill.

COUNCIL ARGUES BALANCE IS NEEDED WITHIN GENDER NOT JUST ACROSS IT

The Ethnic Communities Council of WA (ECCWA) extends its greetings to all women and men who support their cause in celebrating International Women's day.

Council President Ramdas Sankaran said, "For gender equity to be effectively achieved the International Women's Day 2019 campaign theme of [#BalanceforBetter](#) should not just focus on the gender divide between men and women but also look consider the transectionality of gender (from the perspective of women) and aboriginality, ethnicity, disability etc."

"Whilst much progress has been made at the macro level on issues such as pay parity, representation in senior and important decision making roles etc. gender equity still has a long way to go in Australia and globally to achieve a true state of balance."

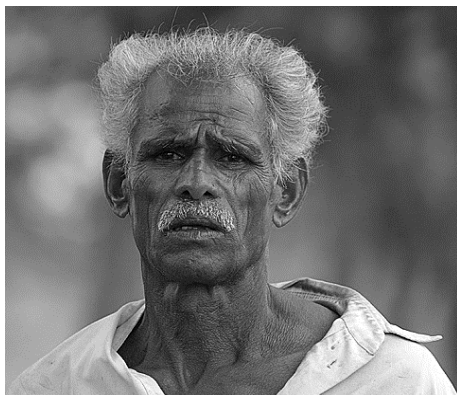
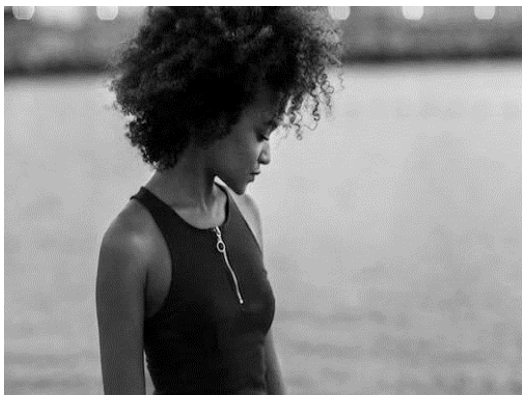
"Our Council has organised many events to celebrate International Women's Day in recent years to signal its support for gender equity and CaLD gender equity in particular."

"We commend and congratulate Anglo Australian women for advocating and lobbying for change vigorously. However, the fruits of their efforts have largely been limited to their own kind. Ironically, what that has led to is the replacement of Male Anglo domination of our society with Male and Female Anglo domination of our society and that does not augur well for a culturally plural representative democracy such as Australia," said Mr. Sankaran.

"Accordingly our Council urge Anglo Australian women and those who support gender equity to ensure that gender equity also encompasses equity from the perspective of aboriginality, ethnicity, faith, disability, etc."

"The level of diversity in WA is at an all-time high and this diversity is often lauded by our governments as a measure of our multi-cultural harmony. Sadly, this is not reflected in the participation of CaLD women in decision making bodies despite no dearth of highly qualified and experienced CaLD women in WA. This has to change as a matter of urgency," he added.

"The last four presidents of our Council were women and 50% of its 14 member current management committee are women. Their ethnic backgrounds are Indian (2) and one each of the following backgrounds; Italian, Pakistani, Malaysian, Singaporean, Congolese, Iranian, Burmese (Karen), Eritrean, Ethiopian, Ukrainian, Philippine and Malaysian. We are also fortunate that our Executive Office is a woman who is highly skilled, knowledgeable and experienced. Our Council calls up on CaLD communities and men in particular to set an example in ensuring women are respected and accorded the same rights and entitlements that they enjoy and to ensure that they can equitably participate in the management committees of their organisations."



DON'T COLOURED LIVES MATTER ANYMORE?

The Ethnic Communities Council of WA (ECCWA) has welcomed the statement by Ms. Christine Morgan, the CEO of the National Mental Health Commission that “appropriate support services and outreach into multicultural Australia need to be developed if anything is going to change”.

Praising Ms. Morgan’s timely intervention, ECCWA President, Ramdas Sankaran commended her and said that she was absolutely right in highlighting that “the challenges with the current system are that it’s an expectation that they [culturally and linguistically diverse people] connect with the system - we have to turn that on its head.”

“Our Council has been emphasising this for many years with empirical and other evidence but sadly it has fallen on deaf ears of politicians and senior bureaucrats at the federal and state levels”, he added.

“WA was the first state in Australia to establish a Multicultural Psychiatric Centre but regrettably it no longer exists. Worse still, access to culturally and linguistically appropriate mental health service is woefully inadequate

This was another reason why it was critical to ensure the continuation of Partners in Recovery (PIR) program in WA as it operated before the federal election and for it not to be transferred to WAPHN.

We therefore urged the Coalition and the ALP to commit to the current four consortia being given this responsibility and in doing so also drew “their attention to a CaLD client who has had a mental health condition for 30 years and also has a cognitive impairment. His wife suffers from depression and NDIA has knocked him back. This is by no means an isolated case and so we asked the question:

Don’t Coloured Lives and those recovering from mental illness matter?

Unfortunately, that fell on deaf ears too and the only provider that was established to service CaLD communities is no longer providing PIR.”

“We are very pleased to note Ms Morgan’s confirmation that ‘while no specific funding has yet been allocated for multicultural Australia, she does see a need for targeted programs within culturally and linguistically diverse communities’, said Mr Sankaran.

“For far too long, the state and commonwealth governments have been pursuing a policy of mindless mainstreaming as reflected by the following examples”, he added.

“The Coalition government’s tender (\$1.3 million per year for three years) for a project titled ‘Mental Health in Multicultural Australia’ was restricted to three agencies and all were mainstream providers. Beyond Blue, which was one of them, to their credit did not bid for it.”

“Other glaring examples include the fact that ethno specific and multicultural services providers have been receiving a nanoscopic portion of the millions of dollars of funding that the federal and state government have been expending on mental health and suicide prevention.”

“In the first 8 months of the last financial year a member organisation reported 12 “suspected suicides” within CaLD communities. The suicide of a young Nepalese girl led to the traumatic death by same method (hanging) of her partner who had struggled with the guilt and loss within 14 months of her death. There were 3 reported deaths by suicide in an Eritrean family. A 35 year-old Afghani refugee widowed mother committed suicide leaving behind 5 young children 3-11 years old”. **(Trigger warning: We urge you to seek appropriate advice from agencies if you require it.)**

“We look forward to working with Ms. Morgan and urge her to speedily finalise a national strategy to address harm reduction and suicide prevention within CaLD communities across Australia and to ensure that CaLD consumers and ethno-specific and multicultural service providers play a central role in it. Until that happens ECCWA will continue to publicly ask the question **Why Don’t Coloured Australian Lives Matter Anymore?**”

CHRISTCHURCH IS A TIMELY REMINDER TO SWAP HARMONY DAY FOR HARMONY WEEK-

[ECCWA media release](#)

The Ethnic Communities Council of WA (ECCWA) called upon the Australian government as well as states and territories to stop celebrating 21st March as Harmony Day.

In 2003 ECCWA persuaded the then Premier Dr Geoff Gallop to change Harmony Day to Harmony Week, as 21st March is the UN International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in commemoration of the Sharpeville Massacre.

Victoria and Tasmania have since followed WA’s example. However, our many requests to Australian governments of both persuasions to swap Harmony Day to Harmony Week and persuade all states and territories to do likewise have been ignored

The Christchurch massacre is a timely reminder to take the issue of Racial Discrimination seriously so that its extreme manifestations will never be repeated. We therefore urge Prime Minister Morrison to ensure that from 2020 the Australian government will swap Harmony Day to Harmony Week and persuade all states and territories to do likewise.

We are very pleased to note that since our media release (which can be accessed from our website), the Federal Government has now dumped Harmony Day for Harmony Week. We extend them our commendations.

Whilst our sordid White Australia past is deplorable, much of the gains we made by the bipartisan support for multiculturalism and equal opportunity legislation and mechanisms have unfortunately been trashed by incidents such as Tampa and Children Overboard, demonising of asylum seekers seeking refuge in Australia under international treaties ratified by it.

The Australian Government's 2019 theme for its Harmony Day was 'Everyone belongs' and was meant to reinforce the importance of inclusiveness to all Australians.

Our Council agrees that inclusiveness can never be achieved without ALL Australians regardless of their ethnic/national origins, Aboriginality, faith, gender, disability, sexuality etc. having a sense of belonging but this will not happen without visionary leadership and resources being assigned to establish the necessary mechanisms and strategies to make our society fair, just and equitable.

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinta Ardern's magnificent and compassionate leadership should be emulated by our political leaders as a matter of urgency. When she was speaking to the Muslim community she said 'You are us' and referred to the perpetrator as "This is not us" or "he is not us" and this puts 'belonging' into perspective.

The multiculturalism scaffolding that the visionary Dr Geoff Gallop implemented which comprised the Multiculturalism Charter, and the Anti-racism Strategy as well as the Language Services and Substantive Equality policies, should as a matter of urgency, be updated and adopted nationally.

A fundamental issue that needs to be urgently addressed is the focus on 1.5% of the period of human settlement in Australia given that archaeologists investigating the Moyjil site in Warrnambool, have estimated that indigenous people have been living in Australia for as long as 120,000 years. So how can we rely upon just what happened a little more than 200 years ago in determining our identity?

The constitutional convention of 250 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders resolved, in the '[Uluru Statement from the Heart](#)', to call for the establishment of a 'First Nations Voice' in the *Australian Constitution* and a 'Makarrata Commission' to supervise a process of 'agreement-making' and 'truth-telling' between governments and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The Australian government should forthwith reverse its decision not to implement the above so that we can move forward in a constructive and inclusive way.



THE BLUEPRINT FOR REFORM ARTICLE BY
THE NATIONAL ADVOCACY GROUP is
available at this link



YOU QUIT. YOU WIN

From Sunday 6 October to Saturday 30 November 2019, Make Smoking History will launch the state-wide campaign 'You Quit, You Win'. The TVC was created by the Cancer Institute NSW in partnership with Quit Victoria. The campaign reflects on what smokers have told us they hate about smoking, such as the cost, the social isolation, the constant search for somewhere to smoke, feeling judged and running out of breath.

Television advertisements will appear on metropolitan, regional and Indigenous networks. This will be complemented by advertising on metropolitan and regional radio stations, digital and out-of-home channels, including shopping centres, train interiors and bus backs.

The advertisements finish with the line 'You Quit, You Win'. Smokers will be encouraged to visit makesmokinghistory.tips or call the Quitline (13 7848) to quit smoking and 'all the crap' that goes with it.

To view the television advertisement, visit the Make Smoking History YouTube channel.

Where can smokers get help to quit smoking?

- Call the Quitline on 13 7848
- Seek advice and support from your GP, Aboriginal Health Worker or pharmacist
- For resources visit makesmokinghistory.tips
- Visit QuitCoach www.quitcoach.org.au/
- Download MyQuitBuddy app <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/my-quitbuddy-app>

For more information about the Make Smoking History campaign, please contact Sarah Beasley at Cancer Council WA on (08) 9388 4370 or email sbeasley@cancerwa.asn.au.

The Make Smoking History Campaign is an initiative of Cancer Council WA and is funded by the Department of Health WA, Healthway and Cancer Council WA.

WA Interpreter Scholarship Program

Funded by the Office of Multicultural Interests (OMI), the Australian Institute of Translators and Interpreters (AUSIT) and the National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI)

Foundations in Translating and Interpreting

face-to-face course conducted by Babel International College (BIC), Victoria Park

Semester 1 January 2020

Guidelines

Background

The Western Australian Language Services Policy 2014 requires State Government agencies to plan for, fund and deliver language services to Western Australians who do not speak or communicate effectively in spoken or written English. Where interpreters are employed, it requires them to have a credential issued by NAATI, or a qualification from a tertiary institute (preferably both).

This scholarship will support the training of people who are practising as interpreters either formally or informally. The aim is to increase the pool of qualified and credentialed interpreters in Western Australia.

The scholarship will provide funding to meet a majority of the cost of the face-to-face *Foundations in Translating and Interpreting* course delivered by Babel International College (BIC). A student who successfully completes the course will have completed four out of the 12 units required to achieve the full PSP50916 Diploma of Interpreting (LOTE–English) qualification, receive a formal Statement of Attainment, and be eligible to apply for and be assessed for a NAATI credential.

About the Foundations course

The Babel International College, Victoria Park, will be delivering the *Foundations in Translating and Interpreting* course from the week beginning 27 January to 11 April 2020, offering four core units of the PSP50916 Diploma of Interpreting (LOTE–English):

- PSPTIS001 Apply codes and standards to ethical practice
- PSPTIS002 Build glossaries for translating and interpreting assignments
- PSPTIS003 Prepare to translate and interpret
- PSPTIS042 Manage discourses in general settings.

The short course is delivered face-to-face, in English, at the BIC campus at 15C/342 Albany Highway, Victoria Park WA 6100.

Please see the flyer about the course.

For more information, please email: info@bic.wa.edu.au or telephone 08 6243 1203.

What will the course require?

Application to Babel International College and acceptance

You will need to send in an Expression of Interest to Babel International College to undertake the *Foundations in Translating and Interpreting* course **by 8 November 2019**. BIC will send you the course application form and explain the entry requirements. You will then need to send in your application form to BIC along with other required documents.

As noted above, your scholarship is conditional on your acceptance as a student by BIC.

Upon receiving the acceptance from BIC, you will need to pay \$250 directly to BIC.

Attendance

The *Foundations in Translating and Interpreting* course will be delivered from the week beginning

27 January to 11 April 2020.

If you receive a scholarship but do not complete the four units for any reason, you will be liable to pay the total course tuition and resource fees for the four units to BIC. If you are not able to complete the course for any reason, please advise BIC and OMI before withdrawing from the course.

Reporting

As a condition of the scholarship, you will be asked to complete a form providing feedback about the scholarship and the face-to-face course within 21 days of course completion. A form will be provided.

How to apply?

Complete the scholarship application form and send it to the Office of Multicultural Interests at the address below, with other required documents as identified in the application form.

By post: Interpreter Scholarship Program

Office of Multicultural Interests

GPO Box R1250

PERTH WA 6844

Please allow sufficient time for Australia Post delivery by due date.

By email to: harmony@omi.wa.gov.au

Subject: WA Interpreter Scholarship BIC Foundations course: [your name]

Please send word documents or scanned PDF documents. **Please do not send photographs of documents.**

In person: You may deliver the application to the Reception, Level 2, Gordon Stephenson House, 140 William Street, Perth WA 6000.

All applications will be acknowledged by email/post within 10 business days of receipt.

Scholarship closing date

Scholarship applications must be submitted by 4.00pm on **11 November 2019**.

Please note late applications will not be accepted.

Further information about the scholarship

Please contact Ms Nedra Weerakoon, Strategy and Planning Officer, via email harmony@omi.wa.gov.au Attn: Nedra Weerakoon. Please provide your telephone number when you email so that we can contact you by telephone if necessary.

This document can be accessed on the OMI website www.omi.wa.gov.au from 21 October to 11 November 2019.

Further information about the Babel International College *Foundations in Translating and Interpreting* course

Please email: info@bic.wa.edu.au or telephone 08 6243 1203.

Website address: www.bic.wa.edu.au

President's musings

I will soon be hanging up my boots as the President of ECCWA (hopefully for the final time), having served in this capacity for a total of 12 years (6 terms not continuously) and in other capacities for many more years. I chose to contest the position of President four years ago and again two years ago for the achievement of one goal, namely the restoration of ECCWA's core funding from the state government. This was achieved after a period of nine years when Minister John Castrilli under the Barnett government ceased the funding. He did so despite the strong support that ECCWA garnered not just from its members but a wide range of organisations both multicultural and mainstream including several peak bodies) and the West Australian newspaper which lent its support via its Editorial column.

ECCWA has long argued that Ministers and senior bureaucrats can cease the funding of organisations like ECCWA and MSC but will never be able to silence their voices nor cease their operations. Messrs. Castrilli and Bolkus long ceased being Ministers but ECCWA and MSC continue to play prominent roles in the state and in the case of the former nationally too.

ECCWA ended 2018-19 with a gross turnover of over \$100,000 and an operational surplus of more than \$40,000. What is more important is the substantial increase in income which is trending upwards (more than \$200,000 in 2019-20). That augurs well for ECCWA and I am pleased that with Vivienne as its Executive officer and the funding now stabilised, ECCWA's best days are ahead of it.

It is regrettable that ECCWA used the heading "No Steps Forward but Several Back", in responding to the draft Western Australian Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2021 – 2025 (SPAP). It did so because the SPAP ignored the concerns ECCWA conveyed to the Mental Health Commission on 7th October 2019 and because in many respects it was not just woefully inadequate but arguably represented a regression from its 2020 Plan.

The SPAP makes no mention of the Transcultural Unit with statewide responsibility, despite it having had a detailed proposal for nearly two years. This does not augur well for CaLD communities. Given the scarcity of funding, it is ECCWA's view that such a unit should be located within the multicultural community and not within the public, government. Our detailed submission can be accessed from our website.

Failure to address the concerns that we conveyed in our response to the SPAP effectively mean that mindless mainstreaming will continue and the loss of coloured lives will continue to be ignored. This in turn will make a mockery of the soon to be launched Multicultural Policy Framework of the McGowan government.

The OMI Executive Director position has been finally advertised and ECCWA and I are extremely pleased about it. Whilst Kim Ellwood who has been the Acting Executive Director for some time now has worked well with ECCWA and other organisations in the sector, it was important that suitably qualified people of CaLD backgrounds within and outside the WA public service had the opportunity to contest the vacancy. Kim like other former Executive Directors, Dr. Leela De Mel and Maria Osman worked closely with ECCWA and the very strained relationship between the two organisations is now well and truly behind us. I take this opportunity to thank Kim and wish her the very best for the future.

In the strong stance that ECCWA took post Christchurch massacre we called for a state and a national anti-Racism Strategy, but sadly neither is yet to eventuate. However, it is pleasing that since our media release the federal government has swapped Harmony Day for Harmony Week, which we have been advocating for decades. The exponential rise of the far right White Supremacy movement, globally and not just in Australia, requires both state and federal