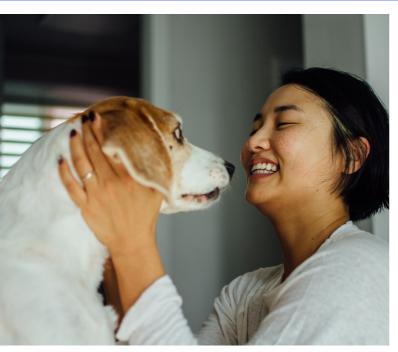
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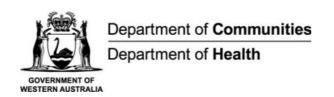
MARCH 2022





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Community Service Support Referral Pathway for COVID Positive People

For the most up to date information on COVID-19 refer to:

COVID-19 (coronavirus) (healthywa.wa.gov.au)
General Enquires Call 13COVID (132 68 43)

To Request Emergency Accommodation or Welfare Assistance to Isolate

Emergency Welfare Assistance is to meet immediate, basic and essential needs when there are no existing supports/services available (subject to eligibility – see below)

Call 13COVID (13 268 43) Option 5, Option 2 – Emergency Welfare Support

To Register a Positive Rapid Antigen Test

Online: Rapid antigen test (RAT) (healthywa.wa.gov.au) or Call 13COVID (13 268 43)

To Register for WA COVID Care at Home

Online: WA COVID Care at Home (healthywa.wa.gov.au)

COVID Care at Home (for COVID positive people at increased risk of hospitalisation)

Communities will conduct a welfare assessment to determine the individual's needs and capacity to self-manage.

To be eligible for emergency welfare services a person must:

- be currently located in Western Australia, and
- require emergency welfare support within the following Welfare Domains.

Welfare Domains – To meet immediate, basic and essential needs while isolating:

Emergency Accommodation	Requests for emergency accommodation are subject to an assessment based or public health infection control principles
Emergency Food	Includes essential food items *Excludes alcohol and tobacco
Emergency Clothing & Personal Requisites	Basic essential clothing, toiletries and baby-care items
Personal Support Services	Continuity of existing care remains the responsibility of the provider Includes general information to assist people to access necessary supports or self-support * Excludes psychosocial, medical or clinical support

Valid at 15 March 2022

Travelling to WA

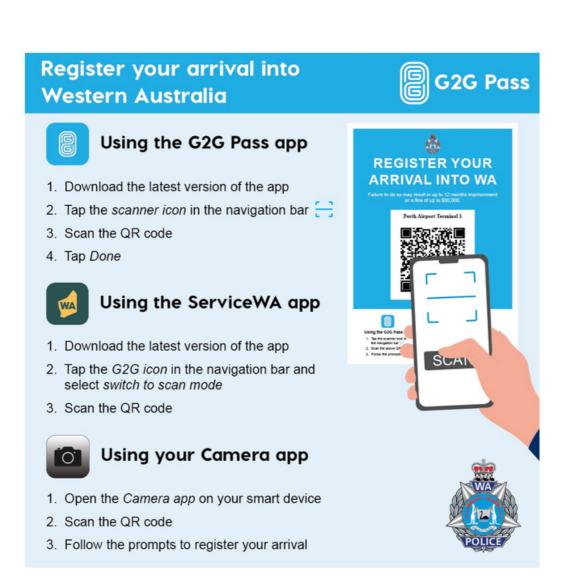
All travellers to WA must have a G2G Pass and be able to show proof of vaccination. Interstate travellers are required to register their arrival at their point of entry in WA.

Registering your arrival is easy – simply scan the G2G Pass QR code available in the terminal.

Before your departure, ensure you have the latest version of the G2G Pass app on your phone (available in the Apple App Store or Google Play Store).

Once you arrive, open the G2G Pass app, ServiceWA app or your smartphone camera and scan the QR code. Tap 'Done' and you have successfully registered your arrival.

For more information about travel requirements visit https://www.wa.gov.au/government/covid-19-coronavirus/covid-19-coronavirus-travel-wa



Easing of restrictions

Thanks to the efforts of the WA community and based on the latest public health advice, public health and social measures will be eased to Level 1 to suit the current Omicron wave from 12.01am **Thursday, March 31, 2022.**

Masks

• Mask wearing will continue to be required for people aged 8 years and above (and Year 3 and over in school), other than in the home.

Gatherings

- Indoor home gatherings limited to a total of 30 people, including household members.
- Outdoor home gatherings limited to a total of 200 people, with the 2sqm rule
- Private outdoor gatherings in public spaces limited to a total of 200 people.

Density and capacity limits

- 2sgm rule and a cap of 500 patrons, for two weeks only, for:
 - hospitality venues
 - nightclubs
 - convention centres or function centres.
- 2sqm rule for:
 - fitness venues
 - entertainment venues
 - galleries and museums
 - places of worship
 - hairdressers and beauty services
 - Perth Crown Complex including the gaming floor.
- 75 per cent capacity for:
 - seated entertainment venues (forward facing), such as theatres and cinemas.
 - major stadia, such as Optus Stadium, RAC Arena, HBF Stadium (main area) and HBF Park.

Contact registration

- Checking in will only be required for higher-risk venues that require proof of vaccination.
- It will not be required at retail outlets and other lower-risk sites where only casual interaction is likely to occur.

Hospitals, residential aged and disability care facilities

- The limit of two visitors will remain per resident per day to residential aged and disability care facilities.
- There will also be no change concerning essential visitors allowed to hospitals, for:
 - compassionate reasons such as end of life
 - accompanying a child or patient with complex needs
 - birthing partner
 - carer of a person with a disability, chronic illness and frailty.

Events

- COVID Event Checklists required for events with more than 500 patrons and less than 1,000 patrons.
- COVID Event Plans required for large events with 1,000 patrons and above.
- 2sqm rule applies.

Community sport

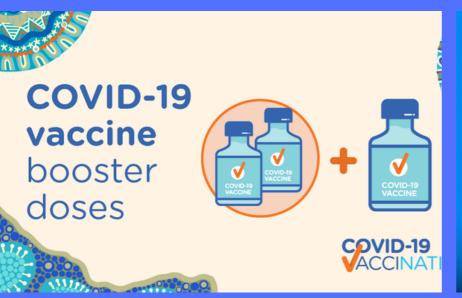
- Indoor community sports as per venue requirement.
- Outdoor community sports are permitted with spectators.

Higher education and colleges

- Higher education remains open, with masks required indoors.
- Boarding schools remain open.

Critical worker, school and childcare settings

- These settings remain unchanged:
 - Critical worker
 - School and childcare settings.





COVID vaccine updates

COVID vaccine booster shot

You are eligible for a COVID-19 booster dose if you:

- Are 18 years and older, and
- Had the second dose of your primary dose course of COVID-19 vaccination at least 4 months ago.

Booster doses are not mandatory, however they are recommended to maintain immunity against COVID-19.

Benefits of a booster dose:

- Two doses of COVID-19 vaccine provide very good protection, especially against severe disease.
- A booster dose will make sure the protection from the first two doses is even stronger and longer lasting, and should help prevent spread of the virus.

A booster dose increases your protection against:

- infection with the virus that causes COVID-19
- severe disease
- dying from COVID-19.

A booster dose will continue to protect you, your loved ones and your community against COVID-19. Booster doses will be **free** for everyone.

Who should get a booster dose?

Booster doses are available to everyone 18 years and over who have had both doses of their primary course of a COVID-19 vaccine at least 4 months ago.

This includes:

- women who are pregnant
- severely immunocompromised people who received a third dose as part of their primary course at least 4 months ago.

ATAGI is not currently recommending booster doses for people aged under 18. Read ATAGI's advice on COVID-19 booster doses - https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/atagi-recommendations-on-the-use-of-a-booster-dose-of-covid-19-vaccine

Vaccine types for booster doses

The Comirnaty (Pfizer) and Spikevax (Moderna) vaccines are approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) and recommended by ATAGI as a COVID-19 booster dose.

You can have the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine as a booster dose regardless of which vaccine you had for your first 2 doses. You can also receive the Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca) vaccine if you:

- Can't have the Pfizer vaccine for medical reasons;
- Had 2 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine previously.

Read ATAGI's advice on the type of vaccine recommended for booster doses.

Criteria	Pfizer	Moderna	AstraZeneca	
Approved aged group	5+	12+	18+	
Primary course	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Third dose for immunocompromised people	Yes	Yes	Not preferred ^[1]	
Booster dose	Yes	Yes	Not preferred ^[1]	
AstraZeneca can be given as a booster dose in some circumstances, see <u>ATAGI's</u> advice.				

How to get a COVID-19 booster dose

To book a booster dose, use the COVID-19 Clinic Finder www.covid-vaccine.healthdirect.gov.au/booking/

The Clinic Finder also has information about:

- Getting help from a translator
- Booking for someone else
- Disability vaccination clinics.

For more information regarding booster dose for residential aged care, people with disability, healthcare workers, and the safety of the booster doses, please visit: www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines/getting-your-vaccination/booster-doses

All Western Australians aged between five and 11 are now eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine.

Children can transmit the virus to others, including older family members who are at higher risk of becoming seriously ill. Infected children often miss out on school and other activities. When children are vaccinated, the chance that they will become infected and spread COVID-19 to family, friends, and others around them is reduced.

Getting your child vaccinated will also help return to normal activities without disruptions, like needing to isolate after contact with someone with COVID-19.

COVID-19 vaccinations are available through GPs, state and territory-run clinics, pharmacies, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services and Commonwealth Vaccination Centres.

ADDITIONAL FACE MASKS AVAILABLE FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES ORGANISATIONS

The WA Government have a significant supply of face masks that are due to expire in April and June 2022. To ensure these resources are not wasted, the Department of Communities has partnered with Foodbank WA and WACOSS to allow the Community Services Sector to access these supplies at no cost.

The masks are available to any organisation that would like an allocation, and the intent is to distribute the masks as evenly as possible across WA.

Individual organisations will be responsible for ensuring their allocation of masks is used in accordance with expiry dates once they receive them. Please refer to the external plastic sleeves for individual expiry dates.

WACOSS would like to invite our members, and the wider community services sector, to collect a volume of face masks from the Foodbank branch closest to you.

Click here to find out where your nearest Foodbank branch is.

To arrange your collection please email Foodbank on info@foodbankwa.org.au to advise you wish to collect from one their branches and to arrange a suitable collection time from their Perth, Peel, Bunbury, Albany, Kalgoorlie or Geraldton locations.

Masks will be available for pickup on or after the following dates:

- Perth from Friday 25 February 2022
- Regional branches Peel, Bunbury, Albany, Kalgoorlie, or Geraldton from Thursday 3 March 2022.

Additionally, we are working on a distribution model for service providers who only have regional locations outside the Foodbank WA network - Esperance, the Wheatbelt, West and East Kimberley and the Pilbara. Further advice will be provided as soon as possible.

Visit www.foodbank.org.au/contact-us/?state=wa to see food bank locations

We thank you for your assistance with this matter to ensure some of the most vulnerable members of our community have access to this vital safety item.



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MULTICULTURAL AWARDS 2022



The Western Australian Multicultural Awards 2022 recognised the contributions of multicultural individuals and organisations last night, 14 March 2022.

There were 10 awards presented during the Awards Ceremony, which was streamed online to reduce large-scale events

We would like to congratulate the 2022 Western Australian Multicultural Awards recipients:

Outstanding Individual Achievement Award: Dr Bernadette Wright

Youth Award: Zahra Al Hilaly

Community Organisation Award – Culturally and Linguistically Diverse:

Umbrella Multicultural Community Care Services Inc

Community Organisation Award – General: Royal Life Saving Western Australia

Local Government Award: City of Stirling

Art Award: Sukhjit Kaur Khalsa

Sportsperson of the Year Award: Peter Bol

Premier's Community Response and Recovery Award: Sikh Gurdwara Perth Inc

Sir Ronald Wilson Leadership Award: Hayden Marchetto

Laksiri Jayasuriya Lifetime Community Service Award: Nick Agocs OAM.



About Speak My Language

Speak My Language (disability) involves hundreds of people with disability from culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) communities sharing their stories of living well with disability. The stories are made into podcasts, and published on the SML website.

For more information about the Speak My Language program and to listen to the podcasts of our current and former SML participants, please seet his link: https://speakmylanguage.com.au/aboutspeak-my-language

The aim of this is to encourage people with disability from refugee and migrant backgrounds to feel empowered to access the services they need and meaningfully participate in the community. We are looking forward to welcoming people with disability from CaLD backgrounds who are willing to share their stories of their daily lives, their work, study, hobbies, friends, how they do their shopping, raise their family, go on holidays and so on, and how they use skills and community resources to do so. The story tellers will be provided with a \$50 gift voucher as a thank you for their participation.

We would also like to talk to guest speakers who work in mainstream services as in health, education, banking, legal justice, councils, etc and provide information on inclusive places, activities, resources, opportunities and programs.

CONTACT US

Nihal Iscel
Speak My Language Coordinator WA
Ethnic Communities' Council of WA
P: (08) 9227 5322
E: nihal@eccwa.org.au

Funded by the Department of Social Services. Proudly delivered in partnership with all state and territory Ethnic and Multicultural Councils and Communities' Councils across Australia www.speakmylanguage.com.au





HILLVIEW CENTRE OPENING NIGHT

On Friday 25th February, ECCWA was invited to attend the grand opening of a new multicultural space, called Hill View Intercultural Community Centre. This is a wonderful new venue in Bentley (Hill View Place, Bentley) and is run by the City of Canning. It has a large meeting room, a commercial kitchen, several smaller activity rooms, a library of intercultural resources, and a computer lab. The facilities are designed to accommodate a wide range of activities and can be hired on an ad hoc or ongoing basis.

We are using one of the smaller meeting rooms to conduct CaLD women's mentoring sessions every second Tuesday. We have planned activities ranging from information sessions to craft mornings for women who are new to Perth or who do not know many people or who just need some company. All women are welcome. It is free to attend and we provide morning tea. Please contact Eliza for details on 3227 5322 or Eliza@eccwa.org.au

The grand opening began with a smoking ceremony, then in the main meeting hall, a welcome to country, followed by a series of speeches, then food and mingling. There were many people there including the Mayor of Canning, Patrick Hall, the Minister for Multicultural Interests, the Hon. Tony Buti MLA, Hannah Beazley MLA, and a large number of people in their national dress, and on the walls, there was a display of national costumes. It was a truly wonderful opening for a fabulous centre.

The highlight of the evening was the food. Down the centre of the hall, almost bisecting it, was a line of wide tables, on top of which was the most astonishing, colourful and inviting array of food from all over the world.

It was a terrific evening and was a credit to the organisers. Indeed the entire centre is a credit to the council and the fund raisers and the sponsors.







SAFE TO TELL PROJECT

Sexual Health Quarters (SHQ) has long standing expertise as a leading specialist provider of sexual and reproductive health and relationships wellbeing clinical services, education, and training in WA. We recognise the impacts of family domestic violence (FDV), which include intimate partner violence (IPV) and reproductive coercion (RC) on women's health and safety.

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) is a term describing the pattern of abusive, coercive, or controlling behaviours experienced by someone in an intimate relationship. IPV disproportionately affects women in Australia. Women are nearly three times more likely to experience violence from an intimate partner, and almost four times more likely than men to end up in the hospital after an assault from a partner or spouse.

Reproductive coercion (RC) is when someone's reproductive health is controlled by their partner. It is a serious public health issue which sadly goes unnoticed by many health care providers and goes unrecognised by the women who face it. RC can refer to many behaviours, including:

- contraceptives being sabotaged so they won't work
- threats or use of physical violence if a contraceptive is requested,
- emotional blackmail around sex, pregnancy, and termination,
- controlling one's freedom to seek help without the presence of the partner,
- and sexual assault.

In 2018, SHQ developed and implemented an innovative IPV/RC screening program, including the development of a consumer and clinician endorsed screening tool. This screening tool identifies clients who may be experiencing IPV and/or RC. This has provided further insight into its prevalence, and how we may better assist or refer clients that are identified during screening.

Building upon this screening program, we are taking the next step with our Safe to Tell Project.

This new project will see the implementation of IPV/RC screening and support programs into community-based services accessed by women.

SHQ is well placed as a sexual health provider to have conversations with clients about IPV and RC and is excited to partner with community and primary health.

The project will increase the capacity of the health workforce in metro Western Australia, to identify and support women with experiences of violence and coercion and ensure that more women who are at risk are identified and can access support in their communities. This project also recognises the diversity of women – all of whom are included in the aims of the project. Safe to Tell is a project that aims to include cis women, trans women, and nonbinary folks – we know that care that is not inclusive will only perpetuate health inequity for marginalised members of our community.





Community Engagement



Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment

If you are unable to work because you or someone you care for has to self-isolate or quarantine due to COVID-19, you may be eligible to receive the Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment.

The Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment is a lump sum payment to help individuals during the time they are unable to work and earn income because they need to:

- self-isolate or quarantine due to COVID-19; or
- they are caring for someone who has to be self-isolated or quarantined due to COVID-19.

For further eligibility information please visit Services Australia.

Student and Working Holiday Maker visas update

Refund of visa application charges

To assist with Australia's COVID-19 recovery, the Australian Government is providing an incentive for Student and Working Holiday Maker visa holders to return to Australia as soon as possible to help address current workforce shortages.

- Any Student visa holder who is currently offshore and travels to Australia between 19 January and 19 March 2022 will be eligible for a refund of their visa application charge (currently AUD630).
- Any Working Holiday Maker visa holder who is currently offshore and travels to Australia between 19 January and 19 April 2022 will be eligible for a refund of their visa application charge (currently AUD495).

See <u>Temporary changes to visa work conditions for Students and Working Holiday Makers.</u>
<u>International Students – working hours flexibility</u>

Due to current workforce shortages the Australian Government is temporarily removing the limit on working hours for Student visa holders.

This means that international students can work before their course commences and work more than 40 hours a fortnight in any sector of the economy. This will also apply to secondary Student visa holders. This change takes effect immediately and will be reviewed in April 2022.

See <u>Temporary relaxation of working hours for student visa holders</u> for more details.

Further Flexibility for Working Holiday Makers

The Government is also temporarily relaxing the 6 month work limitation for Working Holiday Maker visa holders. From 19 January until the end of 2022, there will be no limit on the time Working Holiday Makers can work for the same employer. Check the <u>Working Holiday Maker (WHM) program</u>.

Partner visa processing

If your Partner visa application contains all the required information, we can process it faster. You can log into your Immi Account to make sure you and any dependants in your application have provided all the required documents. If you have applied for a Partner visa, you may receive a phone call from Home Affairs for more information about your application. This phone call may be outside normal Australian business hours as it can come from any of our global processing offices.

Be aware of scammers who impersonate the Department of Home Affairs. They may contact you by phone and say they are calling on behalf of Home Affairs. Their staff will always identify themselves before they ask for any information. You can verify that you are speaking with a departmental officer by asking them to confirm your file number or your application lodgement date.

The staff will never ask for your credit card information, banking details or ImmiAccount password.

ServiceWA app launches to help keep WA safe

The WA Government has launched the ServiceWA app - a free, convenient and secure mobile application that allows individuals to show proof of vaccination, check-in at venues, and access their G2G Pass for interstate travel.

Please encourage your community members to download the ServiceWA app - as the SafeWA app will eventually become outdated. There is also translated advice

For more information or assistance with the ServiceWA app, visit ServiceWA app or phone 13 33 WA (13 33 92). The ServiceWA app can be downloaded for Apple and Android.









African-Australian Youth Navigating Identities

This Project has UWA Human Research Ethics Approval

Are you:



Between 18-30 years old & living in WA?



Born in an African country, or have a parent or grandparent born in an African country?



Keen to contribute to a research study and to improve our understanding of African-Australian youth identities?

SCAN to complete the survey and a chance to win a \$500, \$300, or \$200 Eftpos voucher.

Any questions?

Call/Email Dr David Mickler:

Tel: +61 8 6488 1890

E: david.mickler@uwa.edu.au





Introduction to the Disability Gateway

A new way to find disability services and support for everyday life

The Disability Gateway is a free Australia-wide service to help people with disability, and their families and carers, find information and services.

The Disability Gateway includes a website, 1800 phone line and social media to help connect you with trusted information and services.

Finding and connecting with local disability service providers

Around 4.4 million Australians are living with disability and there are a wide range of services and support to help them achieve their goals.

However, searching for information and services can sometimes be difficult and complex. The aim of the Disability Gateway is to make it easy for people with disability to find helpful and trusted information and services.

The Disability Gateway is a starting point to help you find information and connect to services across Australia.

Who can use the Disability Gateway?

The Disability Gateway is for all people with disability, and their families and carers.





What can the Disability Gateway website do?

The Disability Gateway website is an accessible, welcoming and safe place to look for information.

The information on the website is structured around 10 topics to give you categories to narrow your search:

Income and finance

Employment

Aids and equipment

Housing

Transport

Health and wellbeing

Everyday living

Education

Leisure

Rights and legal

For example, a person considering a return to work who isn't sure what services are available can click on the 'Employment' icon and watch a video that talks about government support for training and study, finding or changing a job, and employment rights. They might then choose to visit the Employment Training page where they can find information about support and services available in their state or territory.

If you already know the kind of service you need, you can quickly search for trusted providers located near you using the 'Ask Izzy' search function.

What is the Disability Gateway phone line for?

When you call the Disability Gateway, you will talk to a real person who will give you clear and fact-checked information and connect you to helpful support and services. The phone line is available Monday to Friday, 8am to 8pm AEST/AEDT.

If you need information in a language other than English, call the **Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450** and ask to be connected to the Disability Gateway.

If you are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment, call the **National Relay Service on 1800 555 677** and ask to be connected to the Disability Gateway.

Is the Disability Gateway on social media?

The Disability Gateway is available on Facebook – providing trusted information and news, and helping people with disability engage with the Disability Gateway and wider community.

The Disability Gateway on Facebook provides information and news about topics and issues relevant for people with disability, as well as their families, carers, support workers, service providers and stakeholders.

facebook.com/disabilitygateway

We'd like to hear from you

We are always improving the Disability Gateway to make sure it meets people's needs. Please share your feedback, through the website or when talking to one of our phone operators.

disabilitygateway.gov.au/feedback













CALD Momen's Workshop



Meet like-minded women from CaLD backgrounds at the new Hillview Hub every two weeks starting from the 15 Feb until the end of June 2022.



HILLVIEW
INTERCULTURAL COMMUNITY CENTRE

Do you want to overcome your shyness and get to know more people?

Join our free social sessions at the Hillview Hub, where women of all ages can meet and participate in activities or informative talks in a safe environment.

We will be hosting classes each fortnight, sometimes on important topics such as Women's health, and sometimes fun workshops where you can make handicrafts. Morning tea will also be provided.

Come to as many sessions as you like! It is free.

Dates in March/April: 1st March, 15th March, 29th March, 5th April, 19th April,

Time: 10 am - 12 pm

Location; Hillview Intercultural Community Centre, 1-3 Hill View Place, Bentley WA, Australia

Contact Sharan on 9227 5322 or eccwauser03@eccwa.org.au for more information or to register.



Why should my organisation become a member?

1) Ensure that your voice is heard:

We represent your community's interest and ensure that you have access to effective systemic advocacy. As a peak umbrella organisation of ethnic communities in WA, we have been providing advocacy services for over 47 years and we are a member of the Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia (FECCA).

2) Benefit from the services from over 75 other organisations

Our membership program allows all of our members to exchange with and benefit from each other's services and community events such as settlement grant programs, women's services and mental health services.

3) Cross promotional opportunities

We can publicise your community's activities to our members which may lead to collaborations across our membership in the future.

4) Get discounted rates on our training programs and hall hire

Enjoy Discounted rates on Racism Matters, Healthy relationships, Multiculturalism and Child protection training sessions provided by our education and training officer for your organisation; and having recently refurbished our offices in North Perth, ECCWA now has a conference/training room available for hire that has up to date IT and video conferencing facilities. There is also a kitchenette available to support events. Discounted rates are available to members for our North Perth meeting room hire.

5) It's free

Annual membership fees for 2021-2022 are waived due to COVID-19. Memberships are open to key organisations working with multicultural or CaLD persons, community agencies and persons of cultural and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

To apply, please visit: www.eccwa.org.au/membership or email vivienne@eccwa.org.au to schedule a meeting with our Executive Officer, Ms Vivienne Pillay.