



Yaso Ponnuthurai Elected Council President with Resounding Margin

The Ethnic Communities Council of WA (ECCWA) has welcomed the election of Ms. Yaso Ponnuthurai as its next president, at its annual general meeting yesterday.

In her nomination spiel, Ms Ponnuthurai said she was “honoured to contest the position of ECCWA President, a position that several men and women including the outgoing President Suresh Rajan have served with distinction”. She also emphasised her intention to “build upon the work that they and other members of the ECCWA board and staff have done”.

“Ms Ponnuthurai’s qualifications include B Com, MBA and MAICD and as a former Councillor with the City of Canning, she proven ability to identify and maximise opportunities to improve service operations, achieve cost savings etc., which she said she would apply to ECCWA.”

“Her extensive experience in both the Public and Private Sector covers a substantial track record in Resources, Health, Capital Projects, Governance, culturally diverse communities Tourism, the Arts, and local Government and financial management. Currently, she also serves on the WA Health Board (HSS), Thalanyji Trustee Advisory Council, Australia India Business Council WA Chapter and the Multicultural Services Centre of WA.”

“Minister Buti has portfolio responsibilities for both multicultural interests as well as Aboriginal Affairs and my involvement in both sectors will enable ECCWA to further its agenda and commitment to Aboriginal advancement and reconciliation”, said Ms Ponnuthurai.

“My leadership style is an inclusive one and my Team approach will focus on board members, as well as our staff who are ably led by our CEO, Vivienne Pillay”, she added.

Some of the issues that I will persuade the board and staff to focus on will include:

- “Raise the profile of ECCWA within political circles at the state and commonwealth levels as well as within relevant state and commonwealth public services.
- Strengthen the profile of ECCWA within the mainstream community services sector and the multicultural sector, with a view to further broadening ECCWA’s membership.
- Lobby for more equitable core funding from the state government and also pursuing CSR funding opportunities, given my contacts in the business and resources sectors.
- Substantially increase ECCWA’s cost free access to consultants to enhance the work that our staff and board members do in the policy and advocacy space.
- Together with board members and staff advocate for changes/improvements in the areas of gender equity, Access and Equity (with the emphasis on the latter), provision of language services especially within the health system, racism and discrimination, enhancing jobs and training opportunities for CaLD communities, improving health and mental health of CaLD communities, addressing FDV and the housing affordability/homelessness crisis that we are currently experiencing.”

“In all of the above areas, I will pay particular attention to people with disabilities, seniors, women and youth” said Ms Ponnuthurai.

“ECCWA Board members and I look forward to meetings with the Premier and his cabinet colleagues, in particular, meeting regularly with Minister Buti to discuss issues of concern to CaLD communities as well as how the Council can be involved in the implementation of the State government’s Multicultural Policy Framework, which was developed to create inclusive and welcoming communities for everyone to participate equitably in all aspects of Western Australia’s civic, social, economic and cultural life,” she added.

For media enquiries Ms Ponnuthurai can be contacted on 0419951378.