

June, 2024

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# NEWSLETTER



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**Ethnic  
Communities  
Council of  
Western Australia**

## 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.

# President's Message

KAYA. WANJU.

Welcome to the Noongar season of 'Makuru'. Makuru (June and July) sees the coldest, wettest time of the year in Western Australia. Represented by the colour dark blue that symbolises rain and cold weather. The water these months bring are essential for all species which call WA home.

ECCWA has had another busy two months addressing societal inequalities which directly impact on the health and wellbeing of WA's CaLD communities. I would like to start with gratitude to our staff, volunteers and diverse stakeholders for their key role in the successful delivery of the ECCWA 2023-2024 work program. This is covered in depth by ECCWA's outgoing CEO, Baily Fernandez, on pages 2 & 3. The June newsletter shines the spotlight on another board member, Meggie Collie. On page 4, Meggie shares the reason she was attracted to ECCWA and what drives her to give back to the community.

The board is now setting up subcommittees to support the delivery of priorities identified in the 2023-2026 ECCWA strategic plan. The subcommittees not only offer us the opportunity to tap into the experience and expertise of member organisations but once enable collaboration, capacity and relationship building. Towards this, EOI for subcommittees were emailed last month to our 108 members. You will also find the EOI on pages 5-7 of this edition. To ensure a level playing ground for new members, the deadline for submission of subcommittee EOI has been extended to 15 July 2024.

Talking about level playing ground brings to mind this quote by Martin Luther King Jr, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." As a society, we are our best version when we work for a safer, healthier, peaceful and equitable world – one in which we use resources mindfully and cultivate sustainable living. Pages 10 onwards are brimming with examples of community engagement and partnership working between ECCWA, internal and external stakeholders and the community; initiatives fostering community, a sense of belonging, harmony, connection; and a review of the 2024-2025 WA state budget by Baily Fernandez.

ECCWA is a peak body with responsibility towards health inequalities and disparities experienced by CaLD communities in Australia. If you know of community organisations working in the CaLD space and interested in ECCWA membership, we would love to hear from them. If you would like to arrange a visit, collaborate with ECCWA or support us through our various events, initiatives and projects, our staff are always available to connect and communicate. You are also welcome to email me: [president@eccwa.org.au](mailto:president@eccwa.org.au).

It is hard to say goodbye but this month saw ECCWA have its share. Our Genesis and SML project staff have been an invaluable part of our journey and ECCWA thanks Anbumoly Kuppusamy, Rasha al-Trihi and Suresh Rajan for their commitment, passion and service to the community through these initiatives.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition.



DR SADHANA BOSE

# CEO FAREWELL

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 journey began with the 2022-2023 annual reporting of various programs, marking the beginning of my tenure. This process underscored the importance of our work in delivering impactful community services, with each program's success story demonstrating the dedication of our team and the resilience of those we serve.

In August 2023, we launched the YES 23 Campaign, which energised 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. Around the same time, 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. From July to October 2023, we undertook a comprehensive organisational culture revamp. This included introducing a new onboarding process for new members and digitising our paperwork in October 2023, transforming our operations and making them more efficient and inclusive. Our updated communications strategy in October 2023 further boosted our social media engagement and modernised our outreach, enhancing our connection with the community.

On 28 November 2023, 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 in October 2023. We established regular quarterly meetings with the Department of Home Affairs and the Office of Multicultural Interests (OMI) to address current issues. The AGM in December 2023 facilitated a review of the year's progress, and in February 2024, we conducted the election of new Board Members. This newly elected cohort was the first to undergo an induction, supported by the creation of a comprehensive Board Induction pack to support their integration.

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 2024, we welcomed a newly elected Board, bringing fresh perspectives and renewed energy to our mission. Their steadfast support and proactive approach were instrumental in navigating this period smoothly.

The Speak My Language Program, funded by the Ethnic Communities Council of NSW, became a cornerstone of our initiatives from November 2022 to June 2024. This program shared real experiences of CaLD and Indigenous Australians with disabilities across various platforms, providing invaluable insights and resources in 25 languages and fostering a sense of community and support. We also celebrated the final year of the Genesis Program, funded by the Department of Social Services, which ran from July 2022 to June 2024 and 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.

# CEO FAREWELL

Our commitment to addressing racism and promoting inclusion was highlighted through the FECCA National Anti-Racism Framework Multicultural Community Consultations, including our successful CAiRE (Community Anti-Racism Initiatives and Empowerment) sessions. Under the ECCWA CAiRE banner, we delivered the "Empowering Voices Workshop," a dynamic session designed to empower community members from diverse backgrounds to address and combat racism. This workshop incorporated role-play scenarios, group discussions, and resource sharing to enhance participants' skills in identifying and countering racism. It fostered a supportive environment where community members could engage in open dialogue, share experiences, and develop strategies to tackle racism, promoting a culture of understanding and mutual respect within the community.

In 2023-2024, with the support of OMI, we made a significant impact. We boosted the capabilities of CaLD community associations through various capacity-building and training sessions. Our Lifeline Workshops on mental health, sexual harassment, and suicide were especially powerful, helping community leaders reduce stigma and encourage healthy relationships. These sessions aimed to reduce domestic violence and empower leaders to create policies that uphold dignity and equality, ensuring good governance. We also teamed up with the City of Canning for our WasteSorted Workshop, which taught CaLD associations how to manage waste effectively. This highlighted the need for structured, strategic planning in creating sustainable community policies and showed how proper waste management can lead to cost savings and better resource use for long-term sustainability. Our 'Diverse Voices, Common Cause' information evening was essential in bringing First Nations Peoples and CaLD communities together to stand united against racism.

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, such as 'All is Well', and 'Multiculturalism and the Human Services Consultation', to provide insights into the current trends and issues facing CaLD communities. 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.

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. These achievements would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of our dedicated team members, volunteers, and the unwavering support of our members. Their dedication and hard work have truly been the cornerstone of our success. The foundation we've built together will undoubtedly support the future successes of our vibrant community.

Baily Fernandez,  
Outgoing (Acting) CEO

# Board Spotlight



## Meggie Collie

Meggie is a driven individual who enjoys working in challenging environments and is excited to connect with vibrant members of the CaLD community.

Meggie has a background in health and social care and is passionate about social justice, empowerment, and working with diverse groups of people to implement effective programs and meet long-term goals.

She has lived and worked in diverse and complex environments, among urban and rural communities both, where many individuals and families have their own struggles, challenges, and experiences. This exposure has added value to her long-term career as a community worker. It also helps her now as a counsellor to treat others with empathy and compassion while aiming to improve lives.

She believes in embracing different perspectives with co-peers, colleagues, and engaging community members where, as a team, they can find common ground and work towards solutions and positive change for their communities.

Some of Meggie's current community roles and past projects include:

1. Women's Leader with Kitwek Community Association Perth (2023-2024)
2. Humanitarian Settlement Program - Family Support Case Manager working in conjunction with the Ethnic Council of Shepparton & Multicultural Centre (June 2005 - July 2011)
3. Co-founder of Goulburn Valley Ethnic Professionals (2005-2009)
4. Community Liaison Case Worker - Numurkah - Bangerang Community Project (August 2007 - December 2010)

# Subcommittee EOI

## FAO ECCWA Member organisations and Associate Members

Dear all,

ECCWA board is seeking direct engagement with our members and other stakeholders vis-à-vis ECCWA Board Subcommittees. We invite expression of interest from individuals representing ECCWA member organisations and from ECCWA associate members to participate in one of the various 2024-2025 ECCWA board subcommittees.

### Background

As I mentioned in the April newsletter, following an intense start in March 2024, the current Board is working towards implementation of priority areas identified in the ECCWA 2022-2026 Strategy and identified over the past four months.

The various subcommittees will play a key role in supporting the ECCWA Executive Office led advocacy, policy, capacity building, sustainability consultations, workshops and training programs.

### Purpose of subcommittee

Led by a nominated board member with oversight provided by the board chair, each ECCWA sub-committee will review current delivery to identify opportunities and gaps, work with the CEO to support work plan delivery vis-à-vis stakeholder consultations and provide regular updates to the ECCWA board. Our objective is to collectively improve the way we connect, communicate and create an inclusive society by eliminating or mitigating the many disparities that either persist or have not been addressed sufficiently enough for our first nation people and other culturally and linguistically diverse communities in WA.

The subcommittee tasked with review of ECCWA Constitution, policies & procedures will, in addition, identify evidence based, good practice examples and provide recommendations to the ECCWA board to ensure a comprehensive and uniform process across the organisation. Volunteers expressing interest in this subcommittee should be aware of Australian codes such as NCC and AS/NZ standards applicable to their discipline. Our objective is to ensure that both ECCWA Constitution and Manual reflect similar organisational values, vision and mission in addressing the evolving needs of WA's CaLD communities.

The subcommittee outputs will be presented at the next AGM.

# Subcommittee EOI

**Table 1. Expression of Interest – ECCWA Subcommittees**

No.	Subcommittee	Board Lead
1.1.	CaLD Youth Outreach	Syed Muzaffar Ahmed <a href="mailto:syedmuzaffar.ahmed@eccwa.org.au">syedmuzaffar.ahmed@eccwa.org.au</a>
1.2.	Constitution, policies & procedures review	Dr Divya Sharma <a href="mailto:vp@eccwa.org.au">vp@eccwa.org.au</a>
1.3.	Engaging emerging communities	Meggie Collie <a href="mailto:meggie.collie@eccwa.org.au">meggie.collie@eccwa.org.au</a>
1.4.	CaLD Elderly Outreach	Dr Sadhana Bose <a href="mailto:president@eccwa.org.au">president@eccwa.org.au</a>
1.5.	Family & Domestic Violence Prevention	Theresa Ng <a href="mailto:treasurer@eccwa.org.au">treasurer@eccwa.org.au</a>
1.6.	International Student Wellbeing	Neelam Wadhwani <a href="mailto:neelam.wadhwani@eccwa.org.au">neelam.wadhwani@eccwa.org.au</a>
1.7.	Refugee and Asylum Seeker Settlement	Emem Udo <a href="mailto:emem.udo@eccwa.org.au">emem.udo@eccwa.org.au</a>

## Expression of Interest

The role will be for the period of July 2024 - June 2025 with a possible extension to 2026. We invite volunteers who are passionate to work for the community, have demonstratable experience in the area and time to commit.

To express your interest in joining one of the sub-committees listed in Table 1, please seek nomination through your organisation or apply directly should you be an associate member of ECCWA. With a view to seeking a more representative and diverse engagement, the ECCWA board is inviting all member organisations to consider nominating not more than one individual per subcommittee, including subcommittee lead role.

# Subcommittee EOI

Regardless of nomination by ECCWA member organisation or self-nomination, please submit your details with the following information before **CoB 6pm, 15 July 2024**.

Max. 500 word summary detailing the following: Your contact details; reason for your choice of subcommittee; skills and attributes that you will bring to the subcommittee; your work experience in the area and your vision for WA CaLD communities.

Please make the submission to **president@eccwa.org.au** and the subcommittee lead (email id is in table above).

## Eligibility

Invited members will be bound by code of conduct enshrined in ECCWA constitution and:

- Demonstrate commitment to ECCWA vision, mission and strategic plan
- Commit time to the subcommittee work
- Demonstratable work and/ volunteer experience in the subcommittee work area
- Demonstrate professionalism
- Be a recognised team player

## Key responsibilities

As with all volunteer roles, your involvement in an ECCWA sub-committee is voluntary. The following responsibilities are generic and not exclusive of any specific responsibilities identified by the board:

- > 80% participation in subcommittee meetings and discussions
- Undertake specific responsibilities allocated or offered
- Engage and work with relevant stakeholders to support delivery of ECCWA work program
- Contribute to report and other publications relevant to the subcommittee

## Selection Process

Each expression of interest application will be reviewed on an individual basis by the president and specific sub-committee lead(s). Selected members will be notified in July 2024. Your engagement is essential for building collaborations that will continue well into ECCWA's golden jubilee year. Whilst we welcome your interest, please note that ECCWA board decision will be final and no correspondence in this regard will be entertained.

ECCWA thanks you for your interest in assisting our effort to build an inclusive, thriving and harmonious society wherein people of CaLD backgrounds play a crucial role.

For further information or clarification, please contact:

Dr Sadhana Bose

Tel: 08 9227 5322. | [www.eccwa.org.au](http://www.eccwa.org.au)

Email: [president@eccwa.org.au](mailto:president@eccwa.org.au)

Facebook: [Ethnic Community Council of WA](#)

Website: [Ethnic Community Council of WA](#)

Working days: Tuesday and Friday 12 - 4 pm



# Message from the CEO

## 2024–25 WA Budget Review

### Where Do CaLD Communities Stand?

Navigating the intricate landscape of community service provision requires a blend of strategic planning, relentless advocacy, and a touch of resilience. At the Ethnic Communities Council of Western Australia (ECCWA), we are committed to championing the needs of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CaLD) communities. The recent 2024–25 WA State Budget presents several promising initiatives, yet it is imperative to highlight the areas where more targeted support for CaLD services would be welcome.

The budget outlines significant investments in housing, health, and education, which are crucial for the overall well-being of all Western Australians. For instance, the \$1.1 billion allocated to boost housing supply and affordability aims to address the critical issue of housing access. Similarly, the \$3.2 billion investment in health services, including mental health support, is a commendable step towards enhancing public health infrastructure.

However, as with any comprehensive plan, the devil is in the details. While these initiatives benefit the broader community, there is a noticeable gap in provisions explicitly tailored for CaLD communities. For instance, despite the substantial funding for mental health services, the budget does not specify measures to ensure these services are culturally appropriate and accessible to CaLD individuals. Language barriers, cultural stigmas, and a lack of targeted outreach can prevent CaLD community members from benefiting fully from these services. It's akin to having a great cookbook but in a language you can't read.

Similarly, the education and vocational training investments, though significant, lack specific strategies to support CaLD students. These students often require additional language support and tailored educational resources to succeed academically. The absence of explicit programs addressing these needs highlights an area ripe for improvement.

Moreover, the growing needs of CaLD communities require an increase in funding for CaLD community associations through the Office of Multicultural Interests' grants programs. These associations are vital for providing social support, cultural preservation, essential services to WA's rapidly changing demography.

The Government's intention with the 2024–25 budget appears to be fostering economic growth, improving public services, and enhancing infrastructure. These are laudable goals that benefit the broader community, including CaLD individuals. However, the absence of explicit initiatives for CaLD services suggests a need for a more inclusive approach.

It is possible that the Government anticipates that community organisations will work collaboratively with mainstream service providers to bridge these gaps. This collaborative approach could leverage the strengths of both community-specific and mainstream providers, ensuring that services are culturally appropriate while benefiting from broader resources and infrastructure. Additionally, the Government might be focusing on broad-based initiatives that indirectly benefit CaLD communities, with the expectation that targeted support will be provided through existing programs and community-driven initiatives. By planting these seeds now, the hope is for a bountiful harvest later.

# Message from the CEO

Our mission at ECCWA is to foster a fair and just society where all people can participate fully and reach their full potential. We believe in the power of providing holistic support to CaLD communities, ensuring that every individual has the opportunity to thrive. The 2024-25 WA State Budget presents a foundation upon which we can build, but it requires a concerted effort to fill in the gaps and ensure that no one is left behind. As we continue to advocate for more inclusive policies and targeted support, ECCWA remains committed to working with the Government and other stakeholders. We believe that feedback from community organisations must be communicated back to the State Government to inform their decisions effectively. This is a crucial part of ECCWA's role, and we are dedicated to facilitating this dialogue.

By focusing on collaboration and leveraging existing community strengths, we can enhance the effectiveness of the budget's initiatives. Let's keep pushing for a Western Australia where diversity is celebrated and every individual has the support they need to thrive. Through collective effort, we can ensure that our state's growth and prosperity are shared by all, creating a more inclusive and harmonious society.

Baily Fernandez,  
Outgoing CEO

# Activity Update

## ALL IS WELL CONSULTATION | 17/05/2024

### **ALL IS WELL: 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.

#### 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 counseling and therapy services, with many highlighting long wait times as a major barrier. They also emphasized the importance of culturally relevant support, including counselors 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](#).



# Activity Update

## CAIRE: COMMUNITY ANTI-RACISM INITIATIVES | 28/05/2024

Through the National Anti-Racism Framework by FECCA, ECCWA hosted an Anti-Racism Initiative titled, "Community Anti-Racism Initiatives and Empowerment (CAiRE)". The workshop included discussions on recognising and understanding different forms of racism, developing effective responses, sharing experiences and strategies, accessing resources, and understanding legal rights and protections. The event featured keynote addresses, workshops, and interactive discussions to empower community members to combat racism.

A big thank you to our speakers:

- Elizabeth Lang from Diversity Focus (Keynote)
- Kayla Manuel from Equal Opportunity Commission
- Barbara van Reyk from ECCWA
- Dr Sharan Kraemer from ECCWA (replaced by Baily Fernandez due to Covid)

Thank you so much to everyone who attended our event. It was lovely to see such diversity in the room and participants having encouraging conversations.



# Activity Update

## 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.

# Activity Update

## MY SHIFT | JUNE

In conjunction with Lifeline WA, ECCWA hosted a series of workshops:

1. Talking about mental health: 06/06/2024
2. Supporting yourself and others: 13/06/2024
3. Talking about sexual harassment: 20/06/2024
4. Talking about suicide: 27/06/2024

Each workshop was facilitated by Engel Prendergast, Mental Health Consultant. Engel is a licensed, master Mental Health First Aid instructor, safeTALK instructor, and a Lifeline Crisis Supporter and Mentor. Engel has more than 20 years of experience working with local governments, communities, and organisations to build their capacity in achieving common goals. Her extensive experience in training and facilitation ensures that she is able to provide an environment that fosters learning and ownership. [Contact Engel](#) to discuss training opportunities for your workplace.

Each session was tailored to the needs of CaLD communities, focusing on navigating difficult situations such as mental health, suicide, and sexual harassment. Participants learned how to support themselves and others in these contexts. Through role-play and scenarios, mini-group discussions and experience sharing, important dialogue was had on the best ways to handle these challenging situations.



# Community Engagement

## INTERCULTURAL DANCE CONCERT | 02/06/2024

On 2nd June 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 hard-to-reach 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.



# Community Engagement

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FESTIVAL | 25/05/2024

The International Students Festival took place on Saturday, 25 May, 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. The event was supported by the City of Canning and Hillview Intercultural Community Centre, with co-sponsors including PMEC Pathway Migration & Education Consultants, Perth Caribbean Association, Ethnic Communities Council of Western Australia Inc., ECU Student Guild, and Murdoch Guild.





# Capacity Building

## WASTESORTED WORKSHOP | 23 & 29/06/2024

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ECCWA was proud to partner with the City of Canning, to deliver, *WasteSorted: Embracing diversity through recycling.*

The City of Canning, in collaboration with Anantha Australia, ECCWA, and the WA Lions Wellbeing Foundation, recently hosted two engaging and informative events focusing on recycling and waste management. The first event, held on Sunday, 23 June 2024, at the Hillview Intercultural Community Centre in Bentley, featured a Waste and Recycling Workshop. Participants learned about the two-bin system, enjoyed hands-on activities, and had the opportunity to ask a waste expert questions. The second event took place on Saturday, 29 June 2024, at the Resource Recovery Group – Canning Vale Centre. Attendees were given an exclusive tour of the Materials Recovery Facility, where they observed the recycling process and gained insightful knowledge about the journey of Canning's recycling. Both events were targeted at the culturally and linguistically diverse community, providing valuable education on recycling practices while celebrating diversity.



# Out & About



**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**



# Out & About



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



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

# Advocacy

## ADVISORY GROUP FOR FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN REFUGEE AND MIGRANT COMMUNITIES IN WA | 11/06/2024

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The Ethnic Communities Council of WA 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.

According to the 2021 Census, there are 248,170 culturally and linguistically diverse women in Western Australia, with a 16.4% increase since 2016.

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.

We commend the Centre for Women's Safety and Wellbeing for undertaking this important initiative. We look forward to working together to make a positive change in the lives of refugee and migrant communities most affected by the terrifying reality of family and domestic violence.

# Advocacy

## 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 as the peak body for ethnic groups in WA has been invited by Amrit Dhillon from the Red Nose organisation 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.



# Advocacy & Representation

## **Acknowledge This! Training Workshop | 11/05/2025**

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.

## **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.

## **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.

# Advocacy & Representation

## **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.

## **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.

Each year, the Australian Government seeks the views of the Australian public on the Humanitarian Program. The [Humanitarian Program 2024-25 discussion paper](#) provides an overview of its key features.

## **WA ACE Forum – Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety**

ECCWA is a WA ACE Forum Member Organisation, and has participated in several forum meetings this year, including the most recent one being in June. The Western Australian Advocacy for Consumers of Energy Forum (WA ACE 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.

# Genesis

As the Genesis Program draws to a close, we celebrate the remarkable journey and achievements of the women who have been part of this empowering initiative. Over the past two years, we have witnessed women taking great steps forward in their lives, overcoming challenges, and starting new journeys. From attempting suicide to looking for work, escaping domestic violence to managing their own lives, finding new homes, and pursuing education, the transformations have been profound. Our five dedicated support groups have provided invaluable resources, guidance, and a nurturing environment, enabling women to flourish. Through workshops, mentoring, and community events, participants have gained the confidence and skills needed to start or continue new chapters in their lives. The outcomes have been truly inspiring, with many women achieving financial independence and building strong connections within the community. The Genesis Program has not only empowered these women but also enriched our community, leaving a lasting legacy of strength, resilience, and unity.





# Speak My Language

Over the past two years, ECCWA has been delivering the Speak My Language Program in Western Australia.

Speak My Language (SML) was a collaborative initiative between the Ethnic Communities Council of WA and the Ethnic Communities Council of NSW. The programme featured CaLD and Indigenous Australians with disabilities, along with their supporters, sharing their real-life stories and experiences through podcasts, broadcasts, and online platforms.

Funded by the Department of Social Services (DSS) as part of the NDIS Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) initiative, SML was led by the Ethnic Communities Council of NSW.

These stories were made available in four languages:

- Arabic
- Spanish
- Turkish
- Vietnamese

The discussions focused on living well with a disability and provided information about skills and resources available in the community to support people in achieving a good quality of life.

For further information on the podcast, visit: <https://speakmylanguage.com.au>



# Community Awareness

## AUSTRALIAN COMMUNICATIONS CONSUMER ACTION NETWORK (ACCAN)

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### **Affordable Devices**

Looking for affordable laptops, phones, tablets and desktops? Affordable Devices connects you with suppliers of refurbished devices, in your State and with your accessibility requirements. Visit their [website](#) for more details.



### **Accessible Telecoms**

ACCAN has developed a service to assist seniors and people with disability to find phones, tablets, accessories and apps that can help them communicate with others. Visit their [website](#) for more details.

ACCESSIBLE  TELECOMS

# Community Awareness

## Join the Diversity and Inclusion Network of WA (DINWA)

**Are you a diversity, equity or inclusion practitioner or volunteer living or working in Western Australia? Do you want to meet others working in the same field?**

The Diversity and Inclusion Network of WA creates opportunities for stakeholders of all types and from all industries to get together and share ideas, collaborate and network. We invite you to:

- Attend quarterly meetings via MS Teams
- Join the LinkedIn Page
- Share your experiences, skills and knowledge
- Collaborate with fellow practitioners and volunteers

**Location:** MS Teams

**Date:** First Thursday of Nov, Feb, May, Aug

**Time:** 2pm - 3pm

**RSVP:** Register [here](#) or scan the QR code.



DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION  
NETWORK WA

Diversity and Inclusion Network of  
Western Australia (WA)



### For more information contact

**Anna Boschman, Diversity and Inclusion Lead, Anglicare WA**  
[anna.boschman@anglicarewa.org.au](mailto:anna.boschman@anglicarewa.org.au)  
0416 455 161  
LinkedIn: [@Anna Boschman](#)

**Jill Brazil, Consultant, Diversity in Training**  
[jill@diversityintraining.com.au](mailto:jill@diversityintraining.com.au)  
0411 592 234  
LinkedIn: [@JillBrazil](#)

# Community Awareness

## EQUAL OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

The EOC offers free rights-based sessions to community groups around equal opportunity law or particular issues within the community that relate to the equal opportunity act such as racial discrimination, and sexual harassment in the workplace and in schools. The sessions last between 1-2 hours and in most cases, EOC is able to travel to community groups. For more information, contact:

### **KAYLA MANUEL**

COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND TRAINING OFFICER  
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

TELEPHONE: 08 9216 3900

COUNTRY CALLERS: 1800 198 149

EMAIL: [KAYLA.MANUEL@EOC.WA.GOV.AU](mailto:KAYLA.MANUEL@EOC.WA.GOV.AU)



Telephone: 9216 3900



Website: [www.eoc.wa.gov.au](http://www.eoc.wa.gov.au)



Email: [eoc@eoc.wa.gov.au](mailto:eoc@eoc.wa.gov.au)



Address: Albert Facey House, 469  
Wellington St, Perth



GOVERNMENT OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

 *Equal Opportunity Commission*

# Community Awareness

## HOMeward SERVICE INFORMATION

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The Homeward Assisted Returns Program provides assistance for non-Australian citizens to voluntarily return home.

The three main categories in which the program can assist recipients include:

- Pre-return counselling and planning using a person centered approach
- Arranging and facilitating travel (including obtaining travel documents, booking flights)
- Reception assistance to ensure they are connected with family and friends in their return country

Homeward is a service provider to the Department of Home Affairs and this information can be found on their website.

For more information, visit [assistedreturns.com.au](https://assistedreturns.com.au) or call 1300 09 HOME (1300 094 663).



# Membership

## Membership – New Members

Join the Ethnic Communities Council of Western Australia Today!

Become a part of Western Australia's leading voice for ethnic communities. As a member of ECCWA, you will gain access to a range of benefits that can empower your organisation and enhance your impact:

**Strong Advocacy:** Leverage our robust advocacy efforts to ensure your community's voice is heard in key policy decisions.

**Extensive Networking:** Connect with a diverse network of organisations, enhancing collaboration and shared learning.

**Professional Development:** Benefit from our workshops and training designed to build your organisation's capacity and effectiveness.

**Enhanced Visibility:** Raise your profile within the community and among key stakeholders through our platforms and events.

**Funding Opportunities:** Access information on funding sources and receive guidance to support your funding applications.

**Increased Credibility:** Enhance your reputation through association with Western Australia's peak body for ethnic communities.

Act now to empower your community and strengthen your services. [Join](#) ECCWA and be a part of a collective voice that makes a difference! Membership is \$33 AUD on a financial year basis.

Visit our [website](#) or contact us at [admin@eccwa.org.au](mailto:admin@eccwa.org.au) to learn more and become a member today.

# Membership

## Keep Your Membership Active!

Dear Members,

As part of our ongoing efforts to ensure that all our services and communications are tailored to meet your needs, we kindly remind you to update your contact details if there have been any changes recently. Keeping your information current helps us serve you better! You will find the form to update your details [here](#).

Have You Renewed Your Membership? If you haven't yet paid your annual membership fee for 2023-2024, now is the perfect time to do so. Maintaining an active membership ensures uninterrupted access to all the benefits and resources ECCWA offers.

Easy Online Payment: You can quickly and securely renew your membership by clicking the "Pay Now with Paypal" button on <https://www.eccwa.org.au/membership>

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in ECCWA. Together, we are stronger!

Visit our [website](#) or contact us at [admin@eccwa.org.au](mailto:admin@eccwa.org.au) to learn more and become a member today.

### ECCWA Board



# Volunteer

## **Volunteer with Us – Make a Difference in Your Community!**

Join the vibrant team at the Ethnic Communities Council of Western Australia and play a pivotal role in shaping a more inclusive society. We are currently seeking passionate volunteers to assist us in various capacities. By volunteering with ECCWA, you will:

- **Contribute to Meaningful Projects:** Work on initiatives that support ethnic communities across Western Australia, helping to drive change and promote diversity.
- **Develop Skills and Experience:** Gain valuable experience in community service, advocacy, event management, and more. Our volunteering opportunities can help you build your CV and acquire new skills.
- **Meet New People:** Connect with a diverse group of people who share your passion for social justice and community welfare.
- **Make a Real Impact:** Your efforts will have a direct positive impact on the lives of individuals and communities throughout the region.

We offer flexible volunteering opportunities that can accommodate your schedule. Whether you can spare a few hours a week or can commit more time, your contribution will be immensely valued.

Interested in making a difference? Contact us at [admin@eccwa.org.au](mailto:admin@eccwa.org.au) to find out more about our current volunteering opportunities and how you can get involved!





📍 20 View Street, North Perth, WA 6006

☎ (08) 9227 5322

🌐 [www.eccwa.org.au](http://www.eccwa.org.au)

✉ [admin@eccwa.org.au](mailto:admin@eccwa.org.au)

✉ [boardmembers@eccwa.org.au](mailto:boardmembers@eccwa.org.au)



Ethnic Communities Council  
of Western Australia Inc



Department of  
Local Government, Sport  
and Cultural Industries



**OFFICE OF  
MULTICULTURAL INTERESTS**