

NOMINEE STATEMENT

NOMINEE DETAILS

If there are more than 14 nominees to the available positions, an election will be conducted. To ensure electoral fairness, applicants are required to provide a brief description of relevant community involvement and experience in support of their nomination. You may attach a word document instead of completing this form if you wish.

No other documentation is required.

Name _____ Bwe Thay _____

Organisation __Communities' Council on Ethnic Issues (Eastern Region) Inc_____

Please provide a brief description of relevant community involvement and experience (e.g. occupation, qualifications, skills, etc.)

Bwe Thay is a Burmese refugee who arrived in Australia in 2009, a Burmese community leader from the Deakin Electorate and passionate advocate for new and emerging communities. He is known both within Australia and internationally as a passionate advocate for the empowerment of fellow refugee migrants and asylum seekers through education. A graduate of the Australian Catholic University, Bwe now works as a Migrant Student and Community Liaison Officer at Swinburne University of Technology. His work at Swinburne has contributed to that university becoming a leader in providing a welcoming environment for refugee migrants and asylum seekers. Since 2010 Bwe has been a member of the Refugee Tertiary Education Committee (RTEC), which encourages universities to open their doors, offer online scholarships and give access to higher education for refugee migrants and asylum seekers in transition or refugee camps across the world. He is also the co-chair of the newly established Refugee Communities Advocacy Network Victoria and in 2017 elected as Vice President of the Communities Council on Ethnic Issues (Eastern Regions)Inc. an advocacy organisation, encourage cooperation, promote social inclusion and harmony amongst all communities in Eastern Regions of Melbourne. As part of his engagement with these organisations, Bwe builds awareness of migrant and refugee issues among government and policy makers, and in effect acts as the voice of the voiceless.

Bwe Thay has been recently appointed by Victorian Multicultural Commission's (VMC) as Regional Advisory Council for the Eastern Metropolitan Region.

Bwe's achievements have been recognised through a number of awards, including:

- 2014 Swinburne University Vice-Chancellor's Culture & Values Award
- 2015 Australian Catholic University Alumni Awards – Young Alumnus of the Year – Highly Commended
- 2016 Vice-Chancellor's Inclusion & Diversity Awards
- 2016 Pathways and Vocational Education Excellence Awards for Cross Unit Collaboration
- 2016 & 2017 Refugee Week Ambassador
- 2017 Camberwell Rotary Club Community Service Award
- 2017 Deakin Community Awards



Signed _____ Bwe Thay _____ Date _____ 08/11/2017 _____