



AFRICAN AUSTRALIANS ARE EVERYDAY AUSTRALIANS

Monday 8th January, 2018

The Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria (ECCV) acknowledges that the vast majority of Australians from African heritage are everyday mums and dads who contribute to our society including our workforce. ECCV Chairperson Cr Kris Pavlidis explains “Many African Australians have established and continue to nurture supportive families and community organisations where intergenerational groups celebrate their heritage culture and enjoy living a decent Australian way of life.”

ECCV condemns unlawful behaviour and recognises that the issue of our state’s crime will be dealt with by the appropriate authorities. In light of recent incidents involving individual offenders, ECCV finds it unfair that the actions of a few are used to smear the reputation of particular multicultural communities.

ECCV is particularly concerned about the discrimination of young members of our community in the media with unnecessary emphasis on personal characteristics such as “race” and “nationality”.

Young Australians from diverse African communities have expressed concerns about the harassment and stigma they experience on a daily basis including when harmlessly going about their daily lives.

In an ECCV Submission on the Draft Victorian African Communities Action Plan (December 2017), the ECCV made key recommendations supporting diverse African communities which included intergenerational relationships, parenting and pathways training to support employment and career opportunities.

Kris Pavlidis says that the ECCV will continue the work with community and relevant authorities towards intercultural and intergenerational solutions to youth justice issues among Australian youth from African heritage.

The ECCV Chairperson Kris Pavlidis encourages media outlets and journalists to focus on its ethical responsibility to impartiality and reporting on the core issues affecting society rather than singling out ethnic groups.

For more information and/or media comment, please contact Leenie Fabri, Communications & Media Officer, lfabri@eccv.org.au / 0422 480 319