



ECCV's role in advocating for seniors from multicultural backgrounds



Photo: Intercultural Storytelling Circle, My Journey - My Lucky Country, Darebin City Council

About ECCV

The Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria Inc. (ECCV) is the Voice of Multicultural Victoria. As the peak policy advocacy body for ethnic and multicultural organisations in Victoria, we are proud to have been the key advocate for culturally diverse communities in Victoria since 1974. For over 40 years we have been the link between multicultural communities, government and the wider community. ECCV has a membership of 220 organisations, individuals and eight Ethnic Communities' Councils (ECCs) in regional Victoria.

Portfolio

This collection of portfolio papers addresses issues around emerging ageing trends in multicultural Victoria. ECCV notes that the term of 'ethnic' is still used by seniors from multicultural backgrounds.



Victoria's culturally diverse ageing population

Approximately 30 percent of Victorian seniors are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Seniors of the top 10 culturally diverse ageing groups in Victoria amount to almost 140,000 people. [Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia \(FECCA\) commissioned research](#) (FECCA 2015) indicates that more than 600,000 older people from culturally linguistically diverse backgrounds live in Australia. A significant number of seniors from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds are aged pensioners.

Culturally inclusive services – a living treasure of the Victorian community

One of the significant achievements and treasures of the community in Victoria is its well-functioning network of culturally specific and multicultural community agencies. These associations were originally established by migrants as community welfare agencies to respond to needs that arose in the multicultural community and they particularly focused on the delivery of ageing and aged care services. In addition, several hundred ethnic seniors clubs provide social support for older people.

ECCV's played a key role in giving migrants a voice and helped to create a unified and harmonious State with its recognised cultural diversity – something that was considered inconceivable to governments and the general public about 40 years ago (Hinz 2009). ECCV achieved a remarkable transformation by creating communication and liaison between Victorian ethnic communities. It included enabling cooperation amongst ethnic welfare agencies through its role as an umbrella organisations for migrant communities and its work in the area of welfare. ECCV continues to provide opportunities for its members, constituents and stakeholders to work collaboratively while at the same time this has become more challenging as agencies operating in the aged care and community health sectors find themselves in an increasingly competitive environment with the introduction of individualised funding models.

Compass on multicultural ageing

The ECCV compass on multicultural ageing provides an overview of ECCV's current priorities relating to ageing and aged care. It refers to advocacy avenues and tools and the organisational approach in engaging with the multicultural community and stakeholders to advance culturally inclusive ageing and aged care policies and practices. The ECCV compass on multicultural ageing aligns with the principles of [ECCV Strategic Plan 2015 – 2020](#).

ECCV Ageing Portfolio 2016, sheet 1: Multicultural policy advocacy for seniors



➤ With whom ECCV engages	➤ How ECCV advocates	➤ To whom ECCV advocates
Culturally appropriate ageing and health sector services	Engage in media advocacy through <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press releases and media publications • Case studies and personal stories • Engagement with media outlets • Joint media releases 	Federal, State, and local Government, and Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries
ECCV members and associated organisations and stakeholders	Provide advice to government and representation through <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board and stakeholder delegations to Ministers and politicians • Meetings with public officials • Representation at aged care advisory groups • Public hearings 	Commissioner for Seniors, ABS, and Victoria Police
Wider health and ageing and aged care sectors	Promote public awareness by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy document and project launches • Presentations • Forums. 	Aged care and health sector organisations



Further reading

- Bronwyn Hinz, 2009, *Many Hopes, One Dream - The Story of the Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria*.
- Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria, 2014, *Multicultural Aged Care Strategy – What matters to seniors from non-English speaking backgrounds in Victoria*, available at http://www.eccv.org.au/library/ECCV's_Multicultural_Aged_Care_Strategy.pdf.
- Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria, 2014, *Golden Years*, Issue Number 116, autumn edition, *History of ethnic aged care at the ECCV*, available at http://eccv.org.au/library/ECCV_Golden_Years_Issue_116.pdf.
- Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria, 2015, *Strategic Plan 2015-2020*, available at http://eccv.org.au/library/ECCV_Strategic_Plan_2015-2020_Abridged_Version_FINAL.pdf.
- Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria, 2016, *ECCV ageing and aged care advocacy outline for 2016-2017*, available at http://www.eccv.org.au/library/V2.ECCV_aged_care_advocacy_outline_2016_and_2017.pdf
- Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA), 2015, *Review of Australian Research on Older People from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Backgrounds*, available on http://fecca.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/AgedCareReport_FECCA.pdf.



Photo: Senior of the Portuguese Association of Victoria

