



**ethnic  
communities'  
council of  
victoria**

**Patron**

The Right Hon Malcolm Fraser AC, CH,  
former Prime Minister of Australia

**ECCV SUBMISSION TO THE  
PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA  
ON CHARITIES BILL 2013**

**May 2013**

**Victoria's Multicultural Communities**

The Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria (ECCV) welcomes the opportunity to present a submission on the Charities Bill 2013 to the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia on behalf of multicultural communities and organisations in Victoria.

ECCV is the peak body for ethno-specific and multicultural organisations in Victoria. It is a community based, member driven organisation committed to empowering people from diverse and multicultural communities in Victoria. Since 1974, ECCV has advocated and lobbied all levels of government on behalf of multicultural communities in areas like aged care and ageing, human rights and justice, access and equity, racism and discrimination, community harmony, employment and education, health and community services, and arts and culture.

**Support of new Bill**

The ECCV welcomes the new more comprehensive definitions of the Charities Bill 2013, however some refinements need to be made.

**Recommendation 1:**

That the new definitions of the Charities Bill 2013 be applied. However it is recommended that refinements are made in relation to education, language, and culture.

**Community Language Schools**

There are currently close to 200 community language schools accredited by the Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. These schools do not fall under the category of formal education as they operate afterhours and are mostly supported by volunteers.

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**Recommendation 2:**

That section 1.85 includes community language schools as they provide vital and accredited language services to CALD communities. It is suggested to include a new phrase in section 1.85 which reads as follows:

*The provision of education through accredited community language schools;*

**Definition of Culture and Language**

The terms 'customs' and 'various languages' may not be the most appropriate to use as they do not reflect current terminology.

**Recommendation 3**

That the relevant phrase in section 1.98 is modified to read as follows:  
*the promotion of culture and heritage of community languages and culturally diverse communities; and*

For further information please contact Nikolaus Rittinghausen, Policy Officer Aged Care, at email: [nrittinghausen@eccv.org.au](mailto:nrittinghausen@eccv.org.au) or phone: 03 9349 4122.

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