

## ECCV's submission to the Department of Health HACC consultation papers Growth funding allocations for 2014-15

### About ECCV

The Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria Inc. (ECCV) is *the Voice of Multicultural Victoria*. As the peak 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 40 years we have been the link between multicultural communities, government and the wider community.

### HACC Diversity Planning and Practice Framework

1. ECCV welcome the Victorian government's allocation of HACC growth funding.
2. ECCV acknowledges the importance of the Home and Community Care (HACC) Diversity Planning and Practice Framework of the Victorian Government and the National Ageing and Aged Care Strategy for People from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Backgrounds.

### Access and Equity for seniors in Victoria

3. ECCV highlights that almost a third of the Victorian population aged 65 and over are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. A growing proportion of this age group are members from new and emerging communities that were identified by ECCV as having limited knowledge to aged care and few established aged care services.
4. Melbourne's growth corridors spanning Local Government Areas including Whittlesea, Mitchell, Hume, Melton, Brimbank and Wyndham local government areas are expected to accommodate almost half of Melbourne's new housing for the next forty years and accommodate many emerging and diverse communities. Strategic investment and planning is required to meet the growing need for HACC services in these growth corridors.
5. Seniors from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds have a preference to stay living at home longer.
6. ECCV is aware that seniors from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds are diverse in culture, language, spiritual beliefs and migration experiences and it is important that HACC services respond to that diversity in order to enhance person and family centred care.
7. ECCV notes that seniors from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds often find themselves isolated at home, facing increased risk of poverty, and barriers to access HACC services.
8. ECCV notes that seniors from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds living in regional, rural and remote Victoria and older people with a refugee experience are likely to encounter additional barriers to access services.

9. ECCV community feedback indicates that regional, rural and remote HACC organisations experience additional challenges in service delivery including travel distance and lack of support networks. Socially and geographically isolated clients may be missing out because some regional areas have no HACC Access and Support services.
10. ECCV advocates strengthening the provision for HACC Access and Support services to ensure equitable access of seniors from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds to health and aged care services.

## **Recommendations**

### **Recommendation 1**

ECCV recommends an increase in allocation of HACC resources to ethnic and multicultural agencies in order to strengthen the provision of the HACC Access and Support service.

### **Recommendation 2**

ECCV recommends allocation of growth funding for HACC Access and Support services to strategically expand the current coverage, and progress towards more state-wide coverage.

### **Recommendation 3**

ECCV recommends strategic investment for HACC Access and Support services with the aim to create or extend current coverage for Local Governments Areas (LGAs) that have been identified as growth corridors and have rapidly growing emerging ageing populations from Culturally and Linguistically diverse backgrounds

### **Recommendation 4**

ECCV recommends allocation of resources for remote and regional HACC Access and Support organisations to extend their reach to include regional Local Governments Areas (LGAs) that currently have no provision for HACC Access and Support services.

### **Recommendation 5**

ECCV recommends including supplementary funding for existing regional, rural and remote HACC Access and Support funded organisations in acknowledgement of the existing additional barriers to community engagement and service delivery including travel distance, the lack of support networks and difficulty identifying and engaging with geographically and socially isolated people.

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