

18 September 2015

Catherine Hemingway
Employment Project Solicitor
Western Community Legal Centre Ltd
Footscray Branch
Level 12, 50 Goulburn Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Ms. Hemingway,

Re: Request for letter of support

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 the state since 1974.

I provide this letter upon request because the ECCV acknowledges the positive impact on Victoria's culturally diverse communities of Western Community Legal Centre's work with refugee and migrant employees seeking employment law advice to engage fully and fairly in Australian work places.

ECCV is pleased to endorse its submission on the *Productivity Commission (the Commission) Draft Report: Overview* (PC, 2015) for the PC's Workplace Relations Framework Inquiry.

ECCV confirms that the Western Community Legal Centre submission aligns with ECCV's advocacy to improve employment and training opportunities while addressing systemic barriers to the employment market. In ECCV's March 2015 submission to the same Inquiry we also raised the issue of cultural diversity in the workplace and its role in generating innovation.

ECCV welcomes increased resourcing for the Fair Work Ombudsman (FWO) to monitor employers that contravene CALD employee rights. It commends the Commission for addressing this need. ECCV is also encouraged to see 'sham contracting' included in the draft report and note that additional FWO resources to investigate and audit employers suspected of underpaying migrant workers will include those in breach of the Migration Act 1958 (Cth).

ECCV applauds the Western Community Legal Centre Ltd submission's specific and informed insight into the draft report's gaps in procedural fairness; and cost increases and time limitations for lodging claims which may disadvantage people with low literacy or capacity to understand their rights.



Dr Irene Bouzo
Executive Officer