



Speaking up: advocacy leadership in multicultural Victoria

by

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The Voice of Multicultural Victoria

About Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria

- A peak advocacy organisation
- Over 200 members
- What we do:
 - We lobby all levels of government
 - We represent the voices of multicultural Victoria
 - We help migrants and refugees benefit from public policy
 - We advocate to change policy and programs for multicultural Victoria

Outline

1. Legislation
2. What is advocacy?
3. The voiceless
4. Policy platforms
5. Advocacy strategy
6. Dos and Don'ts
7. Partnerships
8. Four key questions

Acknowledgements

- FECCA resource kit: Community Leadership and Advocacy Skills (CLASP) – resource kit
 - <http://www.fecca.org.au/images/stories/pdfs/CLASP.pdf>
- What is Advocacy? by Pieta Laut at the PHAA National Conference Perth (2005)

Legislation

- Australian Racial Discrimination Act 1975
- Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities
- Victorian Religious and Religious Tolerance Act 2001
- Multicultural Victoria Act 2011

What we can do?

1. Legislation
2. Education
3. Community monitoring

What is policy?

- Policy is for the people
- Some people are beneficiaries of public policy
- Some people are victims of policy
- When policy is imposed too fast it can lead to less good decision making

What is advocacy?

- Organised influence to address injustice and improve services
- Supporting a cause to bring about change in policy and attitudes
- Influencing governments to shape policy
- Advocates do not have to be leaders but good leaders should be strong advocates
- Anyone can be an advocate



Key question

1. Do you have a voice or are you voiceless?

Having voices heard

- Some say those who are not heard are voiceless
- Most people are not voiceless
- Their voices are not heard due to political and social barriers
- To be heard one must have:
 1. A voice
 2. An audience
 3. A platform... something that is not often provided

ECCV platforms

ECCV advocates for change through the platforms:

- 5 Policy Committees...policy submissions and discussion papers
- Multi-faith and human rights committees
- Victoria Police Committees
- Research with universities
- Media advocacy

We empower ethnic groups through free:

- Bilingual awareness raising projects
- Capacity building sessions
- Governance resources

Influencing politicians and expectations

Advocacy puts you in the spotlight

Speaking out:

- is a good thing to do
 - is the right thing to do
 - is a personal activity
- Where you take evidence matters
 - Think about a multi-party approach

Remember change can take a long time

- Long-term goals are good
- Short-term pilot programs are good



Key question?

2. How do you know about government community consultations?

Government policy submissions

Watch for:

- Government inquiries and consultations
- Participate in surveys, community consultations, suggestion boxes
- Up and coming elections are a good time for advocating
- ECCV website, newsletters, local government

ECCV resources

- Policy submissions
- Position papers
- Discussion papers
- Media releases
- 2016 Conference resources
- Pre- and post budget submissions
- Free Governance/Futures Toolkit

ECCV co-designs policy recommendations

On our website at

- www.eccv.org.au



Key question

3. Who is your advocacy audience?

Who to advocate to

Build up a list and get to know them:

- Politicians/MPs
- Ministers of Parliament
- Shadow Ministers
- Major political parties
- Independent political parties
- Bureaucrats – government departments
- Local government councillors and mayors
- Commissioners

How to reach policy and decision makers?

Invite them to:

- Launches
- Gala dinners
- Cultural events
- Celebrations
- Community consultations

Give them a speaking role



Key question

4. What issues are important to you?

Evidence-based advocacy

- Data and statistics are good
- Telling a story influences attitudes
- Know the current policy when talking to politicians and ministers
- Who is affected?
- Where are they?
- What have other countries/states done?

An advocacy strategy

- **Issue**... inadequate, inflexible policy and programs
- **Goal**... awareness raising, information sessions; language services
- **Objective**... identify marginalised groups, influence public opinion, recognition of needs, plot a research project, review existing services
- **Resources**... volunteers, writers, printers
- **Target audience**... Minister of Education, Human Rights Groups, ECCV
- **Supporters**... partner organisations
- **Opponents**... threats, barriers

Pre-budget submissions

- Victorian budget comes out in May
- Budgetary submissions need to be made around July or November at the latest to be included in the next May budget
- Most budget issues are settled by end December
- Minor adjustments are still made

Key questions

What level of government is responsible for what?

- Federal
- State
- Local government

Choose the appropriate level of government

Australian political system has three levels of government

- Federal is responsible for things like immigration, foreign affairs, trade and defence
- State governments work on health, emergency services, police
- Local governments manage urban planning, land use, local traffic, welfare and garbage collections

Dos and Don'ts

Do

- Say Dear Minister
- Stay positive
- Build partnerships/relationship
- Write a one page letter
- State the key points first
- Tell a story
- Provide data
- Invite politicians to meet
- Refer to a geographic area
- Suggest solutions, pilots
- Give contact details

Don't

- Become angry, emotional, abusive and impatient
- Write long letters
- Cold call for support letters
- Tell a story that goes on for 3-5 pages
- Demand an urgent meeting
- Give long examples and reach the point last

Partnerships plus one - Himmelman's model

Partnerships need a common goal

- Networking... exchange information
- Coordinating... info exchange + altering activities
- Cooperating... info exchange + activities + sharing resources

Collaborating...info exch. + activities + resources + enhance the other

Partnerships plus one examples

- Networking... Meetings, AGMs
- Coordinating.. ECCV position papers/PCV CALD Strategy
- Cooperating...Joint Golden Years magazine; joint forums
- Collaborating... Joint strategic policy directions, joint resources, equal partnership ➡ sustainable partnership



Thank you

- Speak up
- Stand up for what is right
- The voices of multicultural Victoria need to be heard

www.eccv.org.au