



ECCV ageing and aged care advocacy outline for 2016-2017

March 2016

Introduction

The Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria Inc. (ECCV) is the Voice of Multicultural Victoria. As the peak 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. We aim for a culturally diverse and harmonious society that is just, fair and inclusive where all people have the opportunity to participate in and contribute to, community life. We advocate for freedom, respect, equality and dignity for multicultural communities and strive with others, to build a strong, vibrant Victorian community.

The purpose of the outline is to map ECCV's aged care advocacy direction and advocacy opportunities for 2016-2017. It is intended to stimulate discussions among ECCV Board of Directors, Members of ECCV Policy Advisory Committee on Aged Care, ECCV staff, members and stakeholders.

What is ECCV's mission in aged care?

- To effectively advocate on behalf of multicultural organisations, communities, and people to foster healthy ageing in a multicultural Victoria;
- To advocate for equitable access to ageing and aged care services;
- To support and strengthen the sustainability of Victoria's ethno-specific, multicultural and culturally inclusive ageing and aged care services and seniors clubs.

Patron

Her Excellency, The Honourable
Linda Dessau AM, Governor of Victoria

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Who steers ECCV's aged care advocacy?

The ECCV Board of Directors in conjunction with the Policy Advisory Committee on Aged Care and the support of ECCV staff.

What is changing in aged care?

Aged care is undergoing significant reforms at the federal level and it has been agreed that the Commonwealth Government will take full responsibility of the Victorian Home and Community Care (HACC) program on 1 July 2016. Ethno-specific and multicultural agencies, seniors clubs and Planned Activity Groups (PAGs) have been receiving support and funding from the State Government. The Commonwealth has guaranteed that the level of funding agencies receive for older people on 30 June 2016 will remain the same for a three year period (this means there will be no re-tendering of services between July 2016 and June 2019)¹.

The Federal Government is stipulating that access to Government subsidised ageing and aged care services, including residential and home care, is accessed via the *MyAgedCare* website and contact centre.

There is a stronger client focus in terms of care at home (Consumer Directed Care). By February 2017, all home care packages will be portable. It will enable the client to take their package with them to any provider in any location across Australia.

Where does ECCV advocate?

ECCV advocates on a local, regional, State, and Commonwealth level on ageing and aged care issues as these impact on multicultural seniors, communities and organisations in Victoria.

¹ Victorian Department of Health and Human Services, 2015, *Changes to the Home and Community Care Program (HACC)*, available on <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/ageing-and-aged-care/home-and-community-care/hacc-transition>.

How does ECCV advocate?

This table aims to highlight ECCV ageing and aged care advocacy process. It aligns with the principles of *ECCV Strategic Plan 2015 – 2020*².

➤ With whom we engage	➤ How we advocate	➤ Whom we lobby
Members of ECCV Policy Advisory Committees and Networks (including Aged Care)	Produce policy documents including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submissions • Discussion Papers • policy papers and briefings, • position papers • Letters to Government 	Federal, State, and local Government, and Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries
Ethno-specific and multicultural aged care agencies	Publish information via <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECCV’s multicultural ageing magazine and seniors clubs newsletter, <i>Golden Years</i> and <i>Our Golden Years</i> 	Commissioner for Seniors, ABS, and Victoria Police
Ethnic and multicultural seniors clubs, groups, and people	Conduct research and projects on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community capacity building • Community education provision 	Aged care and health sector organisations

² Ethnic Communities’ Council of Victoria, *Strategic Plan 2015-2020*, available on: http://eccv.org.au/library/ECCV_Strategic_Plan_2015-2020_Abridged_Version_FINAL.pdf.

➤ With whom we engage	➤ How we advocate	➤ Whom we lobby
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 	
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 	
	Promote public awareness by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy document and project launches • Presentations • Forums. 	

What are the implications for ECCV?

With the changes occurring in aged care, ECCV may need to re-think and re-define its aged care advocacy strategy and priorities as a state based and funded organisation. ECCV will need to be able to offer innovative solutions and pursue a proactive advocacy strategy.

Suggestions

It is suggested to have an in-depth discussion on the strategic direction of ECCV's aged care advocacy with a view to shaping and strengthening it.

Advocacy avenues and priorities have been identified, including

- To build alliances with organisations with common interest and vision;
- To consult with seniors and their clubs and promote healthy ageing of seniors from non-English speaking backgrounds; to engage in policy advocacy for seniors on better access to information;
- To strengthen ethno-specific, multicultural, and culturally inclusive aged care agencies and services;
- To advocate for equitable access to health and aged care services;
- To influence legislation and policy frameworks;
- To advocate on issues identified by multicultural communities;
- To build the capacity of and provide information to multicultural communities and organisations; to build advocacy capacity of ethno-specific and multicultural agencies and seniors clubs;
- To advocate for State and Commonwealth budget allocations;
- To improve digital literacy for seniors from non-English speaking backgrounds.

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