



19th September 2017

ECCV encourages multicultural Victorians to vote YES for marriage equality

The Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria (ECCV) Board of Directors acknowledges that ethnic and multicultural LGBTI people exist in our culturally diverse communities; that they are our friends and our family members, and that LGBTI people, from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds face even more layers of discrimination.

ECCV Chairperson Eddie Micallef says, "The ECCV Board of Directors and members have long understood discrimination, as many of us and our families have experienced discrimination on the basis of our ethnicity, skin colour, faith and language".

The ECCV Board of Directors endorses 'The YES Alliance' which is a group of Australian community members from multicultural and multi-faith backgrounds that support a YES vote in the upcoming postal vote for marriage equality.

The Chair emphasises on behalf of the ECCV Board of Directors that "as descendants of migrants who came to Australia in search for better opportunities and freedoms, we expect our whole community to be treated fairly in all aspects of civil law, including civil marriage law; this expectation embraces the fair and equal treatment of our culturally and linguistically diverse LGBTI friends and family".

Eddie Micallef encourages "our culturally diverse community to consider the values that brings together our harmonious and respectful society with a shared sense of belonging, acceptance and contribution".

The ECCV Board of Directors supports Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) in calling on ethnic and multicultural communities in Victoria and in Australia to consider voting yes to marriage equality.

ECCV will attend the official launch of 'The YES Alliance' at the Victorian Parliament House on Wednesday 20th September, 2017 from 1pm. All are welcome to attend the launch and join ECCV in demonstrating support for human rights and removing discrimination for the benefit of all Victorians.

For more information and/or media comment, please contact Leenie Fabri, Communications & Media Officer via lfabri@eccv.org.au / 0422 480 319

References:

1. Facebook Event Page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/298770470600054/>
2. http://www.eccv.org.au/library/v4_Final_Marriage_Equality_Position_Paper_Sept_17.pdf