ETHNIC COMMUNITIES' COUNCIL OF VICTORIA
voices *of multicultural Victoria*
- MEDIA RELEASE -

Thursday 16th November, 2017

Multicultural communities hold diverse views, just as other communities do

The Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria (ECCV) acknowledge that the people of Australia have spoken on the issue of marriage equality. Yesterday, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) delivered a resounding 61.6% for the "yes" vote.

ECCV welcomes and accepts views on both sides of the debate and encourages respectful dialogue among all communities including the multi-faith and multilingual communities in Victoria. On this morning's radio program, *Mornings with Jon Faine* on *ABC Radio Melbourne*, ECCV Chair Eddie Micallef explained (the results of the vote) "shows us that there are differing views within the community overall but within the multicultural community there is a sizeable component of conservative views in relation to issues like same-sex marriage…other moral issues."

The ECCV accepts that same-sex relationships are a part of Australia's diverse society. The view of the ECCV Board of Directors is that all Victorian and Australian citizens should have equal civic rights and the freedom to practice and express faith.

Major groups like FECCA and the Victorian Minister for Multicultural Affairs launched 'The YES Alliance' on the steps of Victoria's Parliament House on September 20th, 2017. The YES Alliance is a group of Australian community members from multicultural and multi-faith backgrounds that supported a "yes" vote. Voters were then encouraged to consider diversity in the context of human rights.

The marriage equality plebiscite has been a divisive time in Australian history and as a result it placed a spotlight on a challenging intersection of civic freedoms and religious beliefs. ECCV understands that some ethnic communities have strong religious ties and accept Australians' differing views.

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

References:
- *ABC Radio Melbourne interview*
- *Marriage Equality Position Paper*
- *The YES Alliance*