



STATE BUDGET BOOSTS MULTICULTURAL FUNDING TO \$43.6M

May 2nd, 2018

The Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria (ECCV) is delighted with the Victorian Government biggest budget announcement for our culturally diverse community.

ECCV Chairperson Cr Kris Pavlidis welcomes the \$43.6m budget allocation, highlighting “the \$21.9m injection toward specialised employment support programs will contribute to improving migrant and refugee employment outcomes”.

Cr Pavlidis said “the significant investment of \$8.6m into the African Communities Action Plan to address social and economic issues, including education, employment health and wellbeing, will be able to directly empower grassroots communities of African heritage”.

Cr Kris Pavlidis applauds the \$1.4m increase to the Multicultural Festivals and Events program for community groups including ethnic clubs. Cr Pavlidis says “it’s important that ethnic and multicultural community organisations will directly benefit from this boost. The \$17.1m investment into existing community programs and security upgrades to Victoria’s multicultural community centres will further improve community amenity and safety.”

ECCV congratulates the Victorian Government on the \$15m investment towards programs for young people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds in training, school and work, in addition to the \$1.7m supporting culturally diverse young people at risk of offending. The ECCV Chairperson says “it’s important to fund practical support and pathways for isolated and vulnerable youth including sporting venues and leisure centres in outer suburban growth areas”.

The state budget provides \$500,000 to improve translations for all major government policy and program announcements. ECCV recognises the significance of accessing culturally relevant language services. Cr Kris Pavlidis says “ECCV has been monitoring language services funding and would welcome its prompt roll out”.

The ECCV pre-budget 2018-19 submission highlighted the need for culturally responsive employment opportunities. This state budget significantly boosts access to training, upskilling and employment pathways. ECCV intends to monitor this to ensure funding reaches culturally diverse job seekers. The ECCV State Conference May 17-18th will facilitate further discussion and partnerships to initiate employment growth, workplace diversity and a job ready workforce.

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