

# ECCV Position Paper on Contemporary Migration Patterns

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August 2013

1. ECCV acknowledges that multicultural policy in Victoria has focused mainly on rights to cultural, linguistic and religious maintenance, celebrating diversity and providing access to services for one-way, permanent immigrants. In more recent times Victoria's multicultural policy has focused on 'unity in diversity' and has been a successful showpiece of immigrant inclusion.
2. ECCV recognises that changing Australian migration patterns such as the shift from permanent settlement to temporary and circular migration are significant and require a nuanced advocacy approach.
3. ECCV notes that increasingly our migration policy is focusing on skilled migration to fill gaps in the labour market and that Victoria will be challenged by the increase in temporary migrants that puts people at risk of becoming marginalised if their needs are not part of state multicultural policy considerations.
4. ECCV notes that almost 50% of new arrivals are skilled migrants who are generally highly educated, skilled and resourceful but still require support to orient themselves to their new home and to settle successfully. 35% of new arrivals come in the family stream and 14% are Humanitarian entrants.
5. ECCV looks to our national body FECCA for leadership at the national level on immigration, refugee and asylum seeker policy.
6. ECCV is aware that some of our member organisations are unsure about their role and responsibilities towards temporary visa holders and are stretched beyond reasonable limits to provide basic support and emergency care for newly arrived migrants, refugees and increasingly, asylum seekers
5. In Victoria ECCV will advocate for evidence-based research to explore the changing nature of migration patterns and their impact on multiculturalism and social cohesion as it is understood in Victoria.

Endorsed by Board 27 August 2013

V3 Temporary Migrants updated with Board input - I Bouzo1.8.13

6. ECCV will advocate for resources to be devoted to positive initiatives to allay growing public concern about security and social cohesion and connect people with a temporary status with local communities.
  
7. ECCV will advocate for greater flexibility and more collaboration between settlement and post-settlement support services to improve the long-term health and wellbeing of people living in the community on temporary migration arrangements.

(See also ECCV position paper on Asylum Seekers September 2013)