

# Our Golden Years

## Welcome from the editor

### Dear Our Golden Years Readers

The Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria (ECCV) has recently released its Discussion Paper on the Age Pension: "Life in Retirement – The Age Pension from the Experience of Culturally Diverse Pensioners." ECCV is working together with its partners towards a more equitable pension system in Australia. ECCV thanks all the ethnic seniors clubs in Victoria and in particular the following organisations which contributed to the findings of the ECCV community consultations on the age pension:

- Kozanion the Brotherhood;
- Victorian Arabic Social Services;
- Australian Pensioners' Voice;
- The Polish Community Council of Victoria.

On 27 August 2018, ECCV is organising a forum on the Age Pension for multicultural seniors groups in Coburg and to which you are cordially invited (See page 2–3).

Best wishes

**Nikolaus Rittinghausen**, *Editor*

Our Golden Years is a newsletter for multicultural older people, produced by the Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria, jointly supported by the Victorian and Australian Governments.



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***Invitation for multicultural seniors' club  
representatives to ECCV Forum on  
the Age Pension on 27 August 2018,  
from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm.***



The Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria invites representatives of ethnic and multicultural seniors clubs and groups to our free seniors' forum on the Age Pension on 27 August in the Community Hall of the Greek Orthodox Church in Coburg (next to the Coburg train station).

You are invited for a light lunch and to learn about important policy issues related to the age pension and its implications for older migrants.

Please let Nikolaus from ECCV know if you are attending, what the name of your club is, what language you speak and if you need an interpreter, and how many people from your club are attending.

Please ring Nikolaus on 9354 9555 or send an email to [nrittinghausen@eccv.org.au](mailto:nrittinghausen@eccv.org.au) if you would like to attend by 20 August 2018.

ECCV looks forward to seeing you!

# Preliminary Program for ECCV Forum on the Age Pension

The Presentation of Our Lord, Community Hall

23–29 Victoria Street in Coburg VIC (Next to the Coburg Train station)

27 August 2018

Time	Topic	Person
9.00 am	Registration and Tea and Coffee on Arrival	All
9.30 am	Introduction by Master of Ceremonies (MC)	Marion Lau OAM JP, Convenor of ECCV Aged Care Policy Sub-committee
9.35 am	Welcome	Cr Kris Pavlidis, ECCV Chairperson
9.45 am	Key note address - The Australian age pension system and Australia's social service agreements	Speaker to be confirmed
10.10 am	The Australian Labor party policy on the age pension	Representative from the Australian Labor Party
10.30 am	Presentation of ECCV Discussion Paper: Life in Retirement – the Age Pension from the Experience of Culturally Diverse Pensioners	Cr Kris Pavlidis
10.45 am	Morning Tea Break	All
11.00 am – 12.00pm	Panel discussion and Q&A on creating an equitable aged pensions system for migrants in Australia	Facilitator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cr Kris Pavlidis, ECCV Chairperson</li> </ul> Panellists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Representative from Victorian Consular Corps</li> <li>• John Kostoulis, Federation of Greek Elderly Citizen's Clubs of Melbourne and Victoria</li> <li>• Marion Lau OAM, Convenor of ECCV Aged Care Policy Sub-committee</li> <li>• Hon Peter Khalil MP, Federal Member for Wills</li> <li>• Representative Fair Go for Pensioners.</li> </ul>
12.00 – 1.00 pm	Lunch and Networking	All

# ***The ECCV BE CONNECTED PROJECT***

Getting online independently has never been easier!

The 'Be Connected' project is an Australian Government funded project to help seniors learn how to use the internet in a safe and easy way. The Ethnic Communities' Council Victoria (ECCV) is working in partnership with The Good Things Foundation to help reach out to seniors who speak English as second language and help them receive funding for their organisation.



This project will be executed over the period of ten months until April 2019 and funding is available for seniors clubs for this duration. The ECCV will encourage participating seniors' clubs to work with bilingual mentors to train seniors in using the 'Be Connected' website. The self-learning tutorials on the 'Be Connected' site will help deliver consistent and repetitive messages that will help the seniors understand and learn better. Since the training material on the website is free, the seniors can use the funding to hire mentors, pay for digital technology and/or to cover internet cost.

In the first three months of the project, we have contacted many of the ethnic senior clubs who are members of the ECCV. Of the clubs who were interested, we have had five clubs who have successfully applied for funding and have received the grants. These clubs are diverse in their members' ethnicity, location of the clubs and demographics.

To express interest in this project or to get more information, please contact Sucharita Chakravarthy on 03 9354 9555 or via email on [schakravarthy@eccv.org.au](mailto:schakravarthy@eccv.org.au).