



Tuesday 2 April

## **ECCV congratulates Victorian Government on three-year anniversary of Family Violence reform**

The Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria has commended the Victorian Government for its ongoing and targeted initiatives in implementing measures designed to prevent family violence in the community.

ECCV Chairperson, Kris Pavlidis, said the Victorian Government was to be applauded for the work it had done in the three years since the Royal Commission into Family Violence first brought down its landmark report.

Ms Pavlidis was speaking after Rosie Batty joined the Premier Daniel Andrews and Minister for Prevention of Family Violence Gabrielle Williams to mark the three years since the Commission delivered its report.

"ECCV welcomes the many initiatives and regulations the Victorian Government has implemented since the report was first released three years ago," Ms Pavlidis said.

"It is highly commendable that the Government has implemented more than half of the 227 recommendations made by the Royal Commission, and this is greatly welcomed."

Ms Pavlidis said that while the ECCV applauded the Government for its tireless work in this area, it also urged the Government to do more to address the needs of women from CALD backgrounds.

"While we congratulate the government on its great progress in countering family violence, there needs to be further investment in responses to meet the specific needs of women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds," she said.

"Culturally diverse women face additional barriers to education and employment as a result of language barriers, and can struggle from a lack of culturally responsive services that inform them about their rights and the support systems that are available to them. This can make women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds highly vulnerable to the scourge of family violence.

"There is a need to deliver in-language information session with communities on pathways out of family violence, and to deliver capacity-building projects with both the social service system and justice sector about the culturally specific challenges of CALD women.

"Women from CALD backgrounds can have multiple barriers to accessing information and services, and this can be further exacerbated by cultural and faith values, and not just linguistic issues."

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