



Friday 21 June

## **ECCV presents unique film which highlights personal stories, hardships and successes of refugees**

The Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria (ECCV) was proud to present a preview screening of *Sharing Our Stories*, a short film that provides a first-hand perspective on the hardships and achievements of Victorians from refugee and asylum-seeker backgrounds.

ECCV Chairperson, Cr Kris Pavlidis, said the presentation was made as part of Refugee Week, which runs from June 16 to 22, and World Refugee Day on June 20.

"*Sharing Our Stories* features a range of people, including some of ECCV's Intercultural Young Advocacy Leaders (IYAL), sharing their experience of migration and settlement from a refugee perspective," Cr Pavlidis said.

Peter Khalil MP, Federal Member for Wills and a long-time advocate for refugees and people seeking asylum, spoke as part of the presentation of *Sharing Our Stories* at the ECCV on Wednesday 19 June.

"Our country is richer because of the contribution of refugees who have come seeking a better life. Each year, World Refugee Day gives us the chance to celebrate the positive contributions that refugees make to our communities – such as in my electorate of Wills where refugees are such an important part of our community," Mr Khalil said.

"Multiculturalism is what makes our county great – that we can be from many places around the world and still call ourselves Australian. It's our cultural diversity that makes us who we are. We don't just tolerate it, we embrace it as part of our strength and part of being Australian."

Cr Pavlidis said ECCV was very pleased to produce and present the film because it documents personal stories and captures the voices and individual experiences of people from refugee and asylum-seeker backgrounds in an unusual and thought-provoking way.

"ECCV stands firmly with refugees and in support of this year's theme for Refugee Week: #WithRefugees. The UNHCR estimates that there are currently 25.4 million refugees around the world, and another 40 million internally displaced people. This means that almost 1 per cent of the global population is seeking asylum, internally displaced, or a refugee."

"*Sharing Our Stories* puts a human face on these numbers by presenting people from refugee backgrounds telling their stories in their own voices, and I would highly recommend that it is viewed by everyone who wants to know more about the refugee experience in Australia."

ECCV is planning to officially launch *Sharing Our Stories* soon. Watch this space for formal launch!

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