



Friday 28 February 2020

ECCV pledges support to one of the oldest migrant communities in the country and condemns vilification of the Chinese community

The Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria (ECCV) is concerned with the vilification of the Chinese community as a result of the spread of COVID 19 or the coronavirus. Relevant state and federal government departments are working with international agencies in their effort to contain the spread of the virus and are to be supported at this time.

At the time of publication, there are 4 [confirmed](#) cases of the virus in Victoria. Our thoughts and prayers are with those affected and with their families and loved ones. Unfortunately, the reported incidents of racism and discrimination faced by members of the Chinese-Australian community in Victoria far exceeds this number. The ECCV evokes the values of civic leadership and compassion in all Victorians to address this distressing and damaging attitude.

“We join FECCA, VMC and many others in pledging our support to the Chinese-Australian community and call upon wider Victoria to do the same,” said Eddie Micallef, Chairperson of the ECCV Board.

“This is a time when we must stand together with the Chinese community and actively show solidarity with one of the oldest migrant communities in our country.”

The ECCV would like to direct public attention to [resources](#) from the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services such as this [video](#) with important advice from Chief Medical Officer Dr Brett Sutton and these [in-language](#) (Mandarin) resources.

ECCV calls on our multicultural communities and the wider community to show solidarity, educate themselves about the virus and, where possible, support those who might be in the most vulnerable positions in Victoria, such as international visitors and students from China.

“It is critical to address the spread of misinformation and stereotyping,” said Eddie, “It is how we react to each other in difficult times like these that will determine the future we will face. Let’s support each other, be informed, aware and compassionate.”

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Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria (ECCV) is the peak advocacy body for culturally diverse communities in Victoria, since 1974. As the voice for multicultural Victoria, ECCV is the conduit with government and other stakeholders. We are a member driven organisation representing over 220 organizations on behalf of 70,000 members across Victoria. www.eccv.org.au

For interview opportunities, please contact:

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