



Thursday, 7 May 2020

ECCV welcomes additional support for multicultural communities impacted by COVID-19 and seeks a greater community response to racism

The Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria (ECCV) welcomes the announcement by Minister for Multicultural Affairs Ros Spence, of \$11.3 million over the next two years to support culturally and linguistically diverse communities respond to the challenges posed by COVID-19.

“This is a valued investment by the Victorian Government in multicultural communities at a time when many are isolated, frightened and concerned for their futures,” said Eddie Micallef, ECCV Chairperson. “We are particularly pleased about the extension of support for vulnerable youth and families through the Community Support Groups program, and the additional funding for family violence prevention in vulnerable CALD communities. These are vital programs that ECCV has been strongly advocating for,” said Eddie.

ECCV also welcomes the additional new funding for translation services, at a time when access to telehealth and remote social supports is critical for people who speak English as an additional language. “The advice we have received from our members and stakeholders is that access to translation services and the capacity of the interpreter workforce is very much under threat as a result of the coronavirus. An additional \$1 million is very welcome,” Eddie said.

ECCV calls on the Victorian Government to increase investment in addressing racism and driving social cohesion through the COVID-19 response package. “The pandemic has seen open verbal and physical attacks against Chinese, Chinese Australians and other Asian-Australians. These attacks, fuelled by fear and misinformation, are a real threat to our social fabric and the safety of community members.”

“Through our work with the [All One Together campaign](#), we know that the appetite for strong, community-led action to counter racist narratives and drive inclusion exists. We look forward to working with the State Government to ensure continued investment in the work of community-based organisations like the Jewish Community Council of Victoria, the Islamic Council of Victoria and the Muslim Women’s Centre for Human Rights to address racism,” said Eddie.

“ECCV and its members look forward to further information about how this funding will be rolled out and to further measures that ensure the 2.2 million Victorians of culturally diverse background not only recover from the COVID-19 pandemic but come out stronger.”

For interview opportunities, please contact Anjali Nambissan – ECCV Membership and Communications Coordinator – on anambissan@eccv.org.au or call 0431 091 738

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



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government and other stakeholders. We are a member driven organisation representing over 220 organisations across Victoria. - www.eccv.org.au