



Monday, 27 July 2020

## **Making Sense of the 'New Normal': Impacts of COVID-19 on mental health, employment, social cohesion in ECCV's member community**

With the global pandemic making business as usual almost impossible, the Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria (ECCV) has produced four policy issue briefs that analyse the impacts of the pandemic on the mental health, employment challenges, and risks around social cohesion, for Victoria's migrant and refugee communities.

ECCV Chairperson Eddie Micallef said that the "issue briefs give us a broad understanding of the challenges and opportunities brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions".

"Based on emerging research, secondary evidence and first-hand accounts from our members, these briefing papers also include practical recommendations to the Victorian government to continue to secure the rights of and support culturally and linguistically diverse Victorians at this time."

### **COVID 19 Pandemic and Victoria's Multicultural Communities: Survey with ECCV Members**

The main areas of concern for ECCV's members were unemployment, financial wellbeing and social isolation at the beginning of the pandemic. Mental health came next, given its correlation with other priorities. At the same time community solidarity and group resilience have been fundamental responses and sources of support for ethnic and multicultural communities.

[Read more here](#)

### **Mental health and wellbeing for Victoria's Multicultural Communities under COVID-19**

ECCV recommends that the Victorian Government and service providers work with members of different communities to ensure meaningful participation of CALD community members in the design and delivery of mental health services.

[Read more here](#)

### **Racism during the COVID 19 pandemic**

ECCV recommends that the Victorian Government develops collaborative mechanisms for participation by the multicultural sector and diverse community members, including young people, throughout the process of design, implementation, and monitoring of COVID 19 responses.

[Read more here](#)

**For interview opportunities, please contact Anjali Nambissan – ECCV Membership and Communications Manager – on [anambissan@eccv.org.au](mailto:anambissan@eccv.org.au) or call 0431 091 738**



Monday, 27 July 2020

### **COVID 19 and Victoria's Migrant workers**

ECCV recommends income support payments for workers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic be expanded to include temporary visa holders.

[Read more here](#)

“We find ourselves in a position where coordinated action, political leadership and intensive collaboration between governments and communities are fundamental to avoiding negative outcomes from the pandemic, which will worsen the sense of disconnection and isolation in our communities,” said Eddie.

- EOM -

*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 between government and other stakeholders. We are a member driven organisation representing over 220 organisations across Victoria. [www.eccv.org.au](http://www.eccv.org.au)*

**For interview opportunities, please contact Anjali Nambissan – ECCV Membership and Communications Manager – on [anambissan@eccv.org.au](mailto:anambissan@eccv.org.au) or call 0431 091 738**