



## **A step in the right direction: Victorian Government announcement for additional \$14.3m to support multicultural communities**

“This funding acknowledges the frontline role that many multicultural organisations are playing in supporting migrant and refugee communities to stay connected, supported and safe during this pandemic,” said ECCV Chairperson Eddie Micallef, who welcomed the announcement by Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews for additional funding to assist multicultural communities directly impacted by the COVID-19 State of Disaster.

**“The response to date has often relied on the dedication and self-sacrifice of volunteers from CALD communities, often at great personal cost and risk. This funding will better resource multicultural communities and organisations to continue to support the COVID-19 response safely and sustainably.”**

In [April](#), when the first wave of the pandemic hit Victoria, ECCV along with its members first called for the establishment of a CALD Taskforce. “We are pleased that the Victorian Government has listened to the feedback about the value of harnessing the capacity and connectedness of the multicultural sector in a more coordinated way.”

“ECCV and representatives from the Multicultural CEO Network look forward to supporting the Victorian Multicultural Commission and other government departments in the establishment and operation of **a CALD Communities Taskforce, as a key part of a proactive and strategic response to the impacts of COVID-19 on our communities,**” said Eddie.

ECCV supports the further investment in translated materials, but encourages innovative approaches to be considered in the way that COVID in-language material is created and shared. “Formal translated communications are not sufficient on their own. Creative forms of messaging that resonate with people’s culture delivered by sources that they trust and engage with can have a greater impact,” said Eddie.

“ECCV believes that appropriate investments will be made in the community led message creation and dissemination that we have seen support migrant and refugee communities in Victoria through this public health crisis.”

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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



*The [Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria Inc.](#) (ECCV) is the peak advocacy body for eight regional ethnic communities' councils and over 220 member organisations, including ethnic and multicultural organisations across Victoria. For over 45 years, we have been the link between multicultural communities, government and the wider community.*

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