



Organisational Statement

Thursday, 8 October 2020

ECCV stands against Islamophobia, vilification, discrimination, and racism in all its forms

As a leader in the Victorian community, the Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria (ECCV) takes its responsibility to address all forms of racism seriously. Media reports that a Deputy Chairperson of the Darebin Ethnic Communities' Council posted dozens of anti-Islamic news articles, petitions and comments on social media between 2016 and 2018 are abhorrent and completely at odds with the purpose and mission of ECCV.

Throughout our 46 year history, we have played a leading role in promoting a just and inclusive multicultural society in Victoria. Established 1 year after the official end of the White Australia policy, ECCV is proud of what we and our members have collectively achieved to position Victoria as one of the most successful multicultural societies in the world.

With a broad membership, representing multiple faiths, languages, ethnicities, countries of origin and geographic locations across Victoria, a diversity of views, thoughts and beliefs are an integral part of the ECCV family. Racism and discrimination however fall outside the ambit of an acceptable difference in views. Racism cuts at the very heart of our sense of community and makes us all significantly worse off.

ECCV recognises that intercultural racism within migrant and refugee communities is an issue, that we need to continue to work on, as we do across broader society. Culturally and linguistically diverse Victorians are not immune to racist ideology. With the support of the Victorian Government, ECCV has developed an anti-racism campaign [All One Together](#) that seeks to build collaboration across communities and institutions to address racism, discrimination and hate.

In line with this campaign and the issues at hand, ECCV has a member only forum scheduled for the 20th October 2020 that will explore a number of related themes including:

- Enhancing the dialogue between older and newer migrant communities that contribute to making Victoria a vibrant and successfully diverse place;
- Reflecting on the role of all of us, as leaders, to build social cohesion and address racism, regardless of ethnic background.
- Building more collaboration within the multicultural sector, focusing on complementarity rather than competition;

ECCV does not play a role in determining who is elected to serve within its member organisations but reminds all its members, of their commitment to abide by the Statement of Purpose within the ECCV Constitution as a condition of their membership.

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. www.eccv.org.au