



Thursday, 10 December 2020

ECCV commemorates Human Rights Day by welcoming Darebin City Council and Port Melbourne “Sharks” to the All One Together anti-racism alliance

“This year the Human Rights Day’s theme, *Recover Better, Stand up for Human Rights*, places ending structural discrimination and racism at the centre of the COVID-19 recovery efforts. This is a great moment for ECCV to reaffirm its commitment to act against racism and to welcome Darebin City Council and Port Melbourne Soccer Club as the newest members of the *All One Together* anti-racism alliance,” said Eddie Micallef, Chairperson of the Ethnic Communities’ Council of Victoria (ECCV).

Launched in December 2019, the *All One Together* campaign has provided a collaborative platform for business, local governments, and not-for-profit organisations and community groups to innovate and take positive actions to tackle racism.

“Darebin City Council is proud to become an All One Together Campaign Ambassador,” said Sue Wilkison, Darebin City Council’s Chief Executive Officer. “We strongly believe that all people, in their diversity, should have fair and equitable access to opportunities, services and information. All people should have a say in the decisions that affect them, recognising that we are all better off when everyone is able to contribute and be heard,” said the CEO.

Initially supported by ten Campaign Ambassadors from various sectors, the *All One Together* campaign has continued to attract new members. “The fact that we have leading organisations approaching ECCV to come on board has shown us that this initiative is not only needed but that its collaborative vision resonates across our community,” said Eddie.

In addition to the Campaign Ambassadors, ECCV welcomes the Port Melbourne Soccer Club as the first member of a new category of “Community Champions,” created to celebrate change makers at the local level.

“As Australia has grown in diversity, so has our club. A key component to the growth of our club has been the increased inclusion and acceptance of community members of ethnically diverse backgrounds – all bound by love of the world game. The only colour we see is red and blue. We’ve also seen a recent increase in female participation which has been welcomed by the club and supported with the official recommencement of our women’s program,” said James Vakrinis, President of the Port Melbourne Sharks.

Kamal Ibrahim, Port Melbourne Sharks player and winner of the National Premier Leagues Victoria’s gold medal in 2015, individually championed the idea of bringing the club to the *All One Together* campaign. Kamal came from Ethiopia to Australia with his family when he was only 11 years old, and now uses his experience and the power of sport to inspire a new generation. “The first step starts with us, we need to better ‘ourselves’ as individuals in order to fight against racism and inequality in our communities,” said Kamal, who is also the founder of One Ball.

**For interview opportunities, please contact:
Chris Christoforou – christoforou@eccv.org.au | 0431 091 738**

The [Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria Inc.](http://www.eccv.org.au) (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