

A Victoria for all of us

State Election Platform 2026

Strategic investments by the next Victorian Government will strengthen social cohesion, foster inclusion and create a Victoria where we all belong.

The Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria (ECCV) is calling on political parties and candidates to commit to the following priorities. Our key five asks highlight opportunities for action within ECCV's broader platform of 14 practical recommendations.



Back Victoria's independent multicultural peak body

Ensure Victoria's multicultural future with an eight-year funding agreement for ECCV to expand statewide community consultations and build the capacity of the sector. Provide sustainable funding for grassroots community organisations and Regional Ethnic Communities' Councils to further support inclusion and social cohesion across the state.



Eliminate racism and hate

Stand against rising hate in our state, including antisemitism and Islamophobia. Make sustained investments in community-led approaches that prevent racism, support people who experience it and strengthen institutional responses.



Establish *Multicultural Ageing*

Support multicultural older Victorians to age well through *Multicultural Ageing*, a new place-based initiative led by ECCV that will be launched in six local government areas, complemented by a new statewide Centre of Excellence for Multicultural Ageing based at ECCV.



Build intercultural connection in Melbourne's growth corridors

Champion intercultural connection and promote social cohesion by piloting two Intercultural Hubs in Melbourne's outer suburbs, creating shared spaces where all residents connect and collaborate across diverse cultures.



Prioritise prevention before punishment

Invest in evidence-based approaches to reduce the overrepresentation of First Nations and culturally diverse people in the youth justice system, including funding for new models such as the Violence Reduction Unit's early intervention and prevention initiative.

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Four areas of action. 14 recommendations.

Sustain Communities

1. Commit to an eight-year core funding agreement for ECCV, Victoria's independent and trusted multicultural peak body.
2. Provide sustainable funding for Regional Ethnic Communities' Councils (RECCs).
3. Provide ongoing and increased funding for community-based multicultural organisations.

Invest in Belonging

4. Invest in a comprehensive anti-racism package focusing on community-led initiatives, including:
 - Anti-Racism Support Networks in local government areas
 - an annual pipeline of anti-racism grants for four years
 - boost anti-racism programs in schools.
5. Pilot two Intercultural Hubs in Melbourne's growth corridors so people from all backgrounds connect and collaborate.
6. Revitalise family and heritage language education in government primary schools with programs better matched to local demographics.

Support Every Generation

7. Launch *Multicultural Ageing*, a place-based initiative to support multicultural older Victorians to age well, complemented by a new statewide Centre of Excellence for Multicultural Ageing based at ECCV.
8. Establish *Generations Together*, a new intergenerational program to strengthen relationships between multicultural parents, caregivers and young people.
9. Extend free public transport for young Victorians to age 21 to help tackle barriers to education, training and employment.

Strengthen Wellbeing & Safety

10. Invest in partnerships between grassroots multicultural organisations and mainstream mental health services.
11. Introduce a two-year culturally tailored gambling harm prevention initiative across five priority local areas delivered by multicultural and ethno-specific organisations.
12. Commit to sustained investment in evidence-based early intervention and prevention that reduces the overrepresentation of First Nations and multicultural young people in the youth justice system by investing in initiatives such as the Violence Reduction Unit. Raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility to 14.
13. Provide enhanced, long-term funding for the Refugee Health Program.
14. Support the creation of a standardised, accredited qualification for bicultural workers in recognition of their essential work supporting multicultural communities.