CEO's introduction

The 2026 Victorian State Election comes at a critical time for our multicultural state. Victoria's multicultural communities contribute enormously to our economy, society and culture. Their voices — and votes — matter. Yet a growing number of people are feeling less secure about their place in our democracy. Cost-of-living pressures are placing strain on individuals and families, while racism and anti-migrant rhetoric are being expressed more openly than ever.

This is a test for our political culture and the parties who aspire to govern. The next Victorian Government must make strategic investments that strengthen multicultural communities and ensure our state's extraordinary diversity remains one of our greatest assets.

For more than 50 years, ECCV has listened closely to communities across Victoria. Over the past year, during our statewide consultations, we heard from hundreds of community members who spoke frankly about the challenges they face and their hopes for their families and communities.

Young people told us they need greater opportunities. Families spoke about the need for stronger supports. Older Victorians told us they want to age with dignity and respect. Across generations and communities, a common message stood out: belonging matters.

Belonging is the foundation for social cohesion, but it does not happen by accident. It is built through political leadership, investment and an ongoing commitment to ensuring that everyone can participate and contribute to our state.

ECCV's Election Platform calls on the next Victorian Government to invest in the people, services and community organisations that make this possible. It sets out practical recommendations to address growing racism and how to ensure people of all ages can thrive, along with the multicultural organisations that back them

The 14 recommendations in this platform provide a practical roadmap for a Victoria that is stronger and more resilient. And when all of us are truly included, our whole state benefits.

Farah Farouque
ECCV CEO