



Ethnic Communities Council of Western Australia Inc.

International Women's Day Media release 2021

The Ethnic Communities Council of WA (ECCWA) is celebrating International Women's Day by holding a networking evening on Wednesday 24th March 2021. The theme for this year is *"Women in Leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world"*.

The theme is especially pertinent now because we have seen women standing together with their sisters to demand their right to safety and respect; in recent times we have heard many shocking and sad stories of women being the targets of victimising behaviour. This year's theme celebrates the enormous efforts by women and girls around the world in standing strong and shaping a more equal future.

The COVID-19 crisis has highlighted the disproportionate burdens borne by women, such as unemployment, being cut off from support networks and the increase in issues of Family and Domestic Violence.

"Across the globe, women are leading organisations and institutions carrying out effective and inclusive COVID-19 response, from the highest level of decision-making through to front-line service delivery. Women bring different experiences, perspectives and skills to the table and make invaluable contributions to decisions, policies and laws that work better for all."

The focus of our night is to celebrate these women and their strength. We are looking at women who are leaders in all types of communities, in both the public and the private spheres.

Therefore, we urge those who support gender equity to ensure that gender equity also encompasses equity from the perspective of Aboriginality, ethnicity, faith, disability, etc. The level of diversity in WA is at an all-time high which is mentioned by our governments as a measure of our multi-cultural credentials; and we have some women from CaLD communities in positions of authority in decision making bodies, but not enough.

ECCWA is leading by example with 50% of our Board being women and 40% of our Executive being women. 100% of our staff are women. ECCWA values the contribution that women make to the leadership of our community.

Tonight, we will be having performances from a range of people who hail from many ethnic backgrounds such as Vietnam, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, and the Pacific Islands. Our staff also includes women from India, Turkey, Spain, Egypt, Pakistan, Iraq, South Sudan, Vietnam, Sri Lanka and Singapore.

Mamta Kochhar
Vice President Women's Interests
ECCWA
24.03.2021