



Council applauds the launch of WA Multicultural Policy Framework

The Ethnic Communities Council of WA congratulates the Minister for Multicultural Interests, Hon Paul Papalia on the launch of the WA Multicultural Policy Framework today in Harmony Week.

The Ministers press release stated the following after the launch this morning of that policy framework:

“The Framework sets out practical and measurable ways public sector agencies can ensure their operations and services are inclusive and accessible for everyone, no matter their first language or cultural heritage.

It emphasises the State Government's commitment to multiculturalism and highlights the extensive benefits of our cultural and linguistic diversity - encompassing our First Peoples, those born in Australia, and the migrants from over 190 countries who make WA home.”

ECCWA President Suresh Rajan said “This policy framework was developed in conjunction with the CaLD community and has had significant input from various groups including ours. We note that an important element of the new framework is the commitment to the WA Charter of Multiculturalism. That Charter was created at the time of Dr Geoff Gallop’s term as Premier and has been endorsed by governments after that time. It is a seminal document that goes to the very heart of what CaLD communities are looking for in the process of integration into their new places of residence.”

“Further, the policy’s very strong commitment to the history and recognition of the status of Aboriginal people of this state is very important. Our position, as a council, has always been that Multiculturalism cannot exist if it further disadvantages Aboriginal people. We commend Minister Papalia and the Multicultural Advisory Group in honouring that commitment and restating that position.” Suresh added.

This policy Framework will be a very useful tool for Public Service agencies, Local Governments, the Corporate sector and all others in developing their own policy positions in regard to the integration of our migrant communities. The Policy Framework document can be accessed from the website of the Office of Multicultural Interests at:

<https://www.omi.wa.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx>

We, at ECCWA will work closely with OMI and the Minister to publicise this Framework.

**For media enquiries please contact Suresh Rajan on 0403 276 960
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