



**ETHNIC
COMMUNITIES
COUNCIL WA**

**2019
ANNUAL
REPORT**

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VALE Russell Raymond OAM



The passing of Russell on 25th August 2019 marks an end of a great era in the annals of both the Ethnic Communities Council of WA (ECCWA) and the Multicultural Services Centre of Western Australia (MSC).

The management committee and staff of ECCWA wish to pay respects to and honour the memory of Mr. Russell Raymond OAM whose substantial contribution has significantly influenced its growth and development.

Russell's contribution to ECCWA is legendary and is aptly described as its Golden Age for during his presidency it was the second largest ECC next only to ECCNSW and arguably its advocacy and lobbying were the most strident amongst all ECCs.

At the national level, Russell was a Deputy Chairperson representing WA on the FECCA Executive for more than 5 years. He served FECCA in other capacities including as Honorary Secretary for 4 years, its representative on many advisory committees including the SBS Community Advisory Committee for many years.

Russell had a great impact on many past and present staff and board members of not just MSC and ECCWA but many other organisations including ECCWA member organisations such as WA Sri Lankan Association, Burgher Welfare League, Advocare, Australia Day Council (Auspire) and Umbrella Community Services.

Russell was an eminent journalist, a senior sub editor at the West Australian, and the Editor of the Countryman. In January 1994, Russell was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for services to the North Perth Migrant Resource Centre and to the Media

Russell's golden voice, terrific sense of humour and camaraderie will be sorely missed by all who knew him, especially by the Board and staff of ECCWA and MSC.

Vale Russell Raymond OAM.

Acknowledgements

Partners and funding bodies

ECCWA extends its gratitude to the following (listed in alphabetical order) for their financial and other (in kind) support and assistance

- Australian Red Cross
- Bendigo Bank, North Perth
- Black Swan Health
- Breast Screen WA
- City of Belmont
- City of Stirling
- City of Vincent
- Department of Social Services (Commonwealth)
- Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia
- Ishar Multicultural Women's Health Centre
- Joondalup and Wanneroo Multicultural Services Inc.
- Multicultural Services Centre of Western Australia
- Office of Multicultural Interests
- Richmond Wellbeing
- Umbrella Multicultural Care Services Inc.

Peak bodies

ECCWA is a member of the following peak bodies and extends its appreciation for the support and assistance it received during 2018-19.

- Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia
- Community Employers Western Australia
- Refugee Council of Australia
- Shelter WA (on a reciprocal basis)
- Health Consumers' Council (on a reciprocal basis)
- Womens Family and Domestic Violence Council (on a reciprocal basis) Is this the same as the Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence?

ECCWA Consultants Panel

The following people accepted our invitation to be members of the above panel and we extend our thanks and appreciation for their support and guidance.

- Ms Helen Cattalini, Former Commissioner, Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission
- Shobhana Chakrabarti, (Former CEO, Ishar)
- Jenny Au Yeong, (Former CEO, EDAC)
- Dr. Indira Pattni, (Management Consultant and Clinical Psychologist)

The management committee extends its thanks and appreciation to all ECCWA members both long term and recent. ECCWA is fortunate that well established agencies, both mainstream and multicultural that service migrants and refugees are now its members. With their support ECCWA has continued to effectively advocate and lobby on many issues of concerns and its substantial achievements as detailed in the report that follows are ample testimony of its resilience and determination.

ECCWA Constitutional Objects

ECCWA Constitutional Objects

- a. To foster participation by ethnic communities in the development of a cohesive, culturally pluralistic Australian society bearing in mind the historical contribution which all ethnic communities have made to the development of the same.
- b. To act as the peak body for ethnic communities in Western Australia, which shall advocate for the rights of ethnic communities in ensuring the protection of these rights.
- c. To participate in government and quasi government bodies established for the purposes of developing the Council's objectives.
- d. To promote joint action and co-operation between ethnic communities on issues of common concern while assisting and encouraging the full participation of ethnic groups in the community in the social, economic and cultural life of society
- e. To ensure the rights of the ethnic communities including effective participation in decisions which affect them, and encourage the sharing of community resources.
- f. To provide multi-lingual welfare and counselling services to assist the aged, women, children, youth and ethnic people with disabilities.
- g. To render such assistance as the Council shall consider appropriate for the relief of persons in necessitous circumstances.
- h. To provide interpreting and/or translating services in specialized area of need.
- i. To do and to perform all acts, matter and things as are charitable and for benevolent purposes having public benefit in accordance with the law of the State of Western Australia and the law of the Commonwealth of Australia and to disseminate any information within a Social Justice framework that achieves the objectives of the Council in ensuring equity and access to and for ethnic communities
- j. To increase the awareness of the public that Australia is a Multicultural Society.
- k. To render any other assistance, services or facilities that the Council might consider necessary as the need arises.
- l. To undertake any other activity to promote multiculturalism and ethnic welfare.

Our vision, mission, values & principles

ECCWA Vision

A fair and just society; one in which all people are encouraged to participate fully in the life of the community and are supported to reach their full potential, where diversity is valued and people live in harmony.

ECCWA Mission

To work in partnership with its member organisations, the community and government in the development and establishment of services and facilities that will ensure:

- The wellbeing of the culturally and linguistically diverse community of Western Australia
- The participation of people in the decision making mechanisms of this society
- Equitable access to, and an equitable share of, the resources of this State
- Diversity and co-existence.

ECCWA Values and Principles

In working towards its vision the Ethnic Communities Council WA encompasses the following values and principles:

- Human Rights
- Equity
- Social Justice
- Participation
- Representation
- Empowerment
- Participation and Representation
- Community harmony
- Citizenship rights and responsibilities.
- Collaboration and cooperative partnerships
- Integrity, respect and responsibility
- Strong leadership
- Ethical standards of administration and management
- Openness and accountability to stakeholders and the community.



ECCWA Management Committee

Office Bearers

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| President | Ramdas Sankaran OAM |
| Sr. Vice president | Kim Luby |
| Secretary | Suresh Rajan |
| Treasurer | Rahim Ghauri |
| Vice President (Women) | Nasreen Lang |

Management Committee Members

Sarina Sirna

Alphonse Toussaint

Yahye Sheikh-Abdi

Joansy Pegrum

Dr Hassan Fallahzadeh

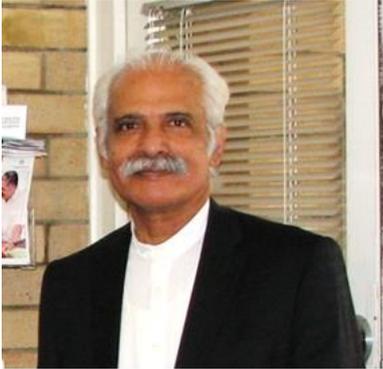
Carmelita Baltazar

Pius Joseph

Elizabeth Lang

Jan Williams

President's report



Whilst 2017-18 was a very pleasing year as ECCWA's core funding was restored, 2018-19 turned out to be an even better year thanks to Premier McGowan and the Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests, Hon. Paul Papalia, who increased the funding substantially.

ECCWA ended the year with a gross turnover of over \$100,000 and an operational surplus of more than \$40,000. What is more important is that the substantial increase in income is trending upwards (more than \$200,000 in 2019-20). That augurs well for ECCWA. As you will note from the main body of this report ECCWA continued to have a strong advocacy and lobbying profile through a number of submissions on various matters, by issuing many media releases and undertaking other activities to effectively achieve its objectives.

Of particular significance is the work we did in relation to Directions Paper for the 10-Year Strategy on Homelessness, Family & Domestic Violence 10- year Plan, the Christchurch Massacre and the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee's Inquiry into the Migration Amendment (Strengthening the Character Test) Bill 2019 [Provisions]

The passing of Russell Raymond OAM in August 2019 was the ending of a magnificent era as can be gauged from the article on page 2 and the tribute published by the West Australian as shown on the last page. It is a massive loss for ECCWA and for me personally and will take us a very long time to come to terms with.

I extend my special thanks to all management committee members and in particular to Kim Luby, (Senior Vice President), Suresh Rajan (Secretary), Rahim Ghauri (Treasurer) and Nasreen Lang (Vice President Women's Issues).

ECCWA also has in Vivienne Pillay an Executive Officer who is articulate, highly skilled and experienced to advance its remit in terms of advocacy and lobbying as well as in establishing services that its member organisations don't currently provide. Working with Vivienne has been a pleasure and I extend her my special thanks for her substantial contribution.

I extend special thanks to the EAST Team of Nhi Howell and Young-eun Lee and ECCWA's other staff members Lloyd Rego, Elizabeth Nguyen and volunteer Nihal Iscel who are managed by Vivienne.

As mentioned in last year's report Hon. Paul Papalia's Ministerial Advisory Group is playing an important role in shaping the state's multicultural agenda and its members have been very supportive of ECCWA and the issues it has drawn to their attention. We extend our special thanks to all of them.

Listed in the Acknowledgments section of this report are a number of agencies as well as individuals who have provided our Council invaluable support and assistance. I extend our gratitude to all of them, with special thanks to Ms. Kim Ellwood, the Acting Executive Director of the Office of Multicultural Interests for her support and assistance.

As always, I end with special thanks to our partners and family members for their support and understanding. But for the added responsibilities that they have so graciously accepted, our goal to serve ECCWA and the community the way we do, would never have been realised.

Ramdas Sankaran OAM
President

Executive Officer's Report



ECCWA's core funding was restored for the financial year 2018-2019 thanks to Premier McGowan and the Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests, Hon. Paul Papalia. This is a grant of \$60,000 made to ECCWA under the heading of the Member Support and Sector Development Program which was to enable ECCWA to grow and sustain its membership and help to provide services for its member organisations.

As a result, I was appointed in January 2019 as the part-time Executive Officer and with the support of volunteers in the Management Committee of ECCWA have been able to review our membership and consolidate the Communities and Organisations committed to the vision and objectives of the organisation. We currently have 54 members and this number is constantly being reviewed and is increasing.

I also undertook to seek funding for our Ethnic Advocacy and Support Team (EAST) and was successful in obtaining a further \$50,000 for the period January 2019 to December 2019.

During the six months my focus has been on re-establishing the ECCWA office and hence additional part-time staff were employed for ECCWA and EAST. Together we have worked closely with the Management Committee to successfully increase our membership and to increase sources of funding for ECCWA -the details of which are included in this report.

Additionally, I do have the pleasure in advising that ECCWA has a Budget of \$212,866.00 for the financial year 2019-2020 and we are still awaiting decisions on other tenders. It would be appropriate for me at this time to specifically acknowledge the support I have received from our outgoing President Mr Ramdas Sankaran and Treasurer Mr Rahim Ghauri.

In addition, I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of our outgoing Secretary Mr Suresh Rajan who has dedicated himself to ensuring appropriate Media statements have been made and in conjunction with the others provided me with significant education on the history of ECCWA.

I have spent much time meeting other CEO's of member organisations and Community Leaders to gain an understanding of what they see are the key issues facing them and the significant gaps in services and used this opportunity to stress the importance of a strong peak body with a consolidated voice and systemic advocacy particularly in a climate where procurement issues are impacting all.

As such, plans are already in place to conduct quarterly Community Sector forums allowing members to access and through participation, voice their views to Governments and Ministers.

I look forward at this point to continue the dedicated efforts of those who have gone before me to ensure the objectives and goals of ECCWA are achieved.

Vivienne Pillay
Executive Officer

Policy, Advocacy and Lobbying

ECCWA continues to work closely with culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) communities, relevant government and non-government agencies to achieve its vision of a diverse, fair, just and harmonious society in which all people have the opportunity to participate to reach their full potential.

ECCWA has endeavoured to meet its vision and objectives via a range of activities in 2018-2019 and the main ones being:

1. POLICY, ADVOCACY & LOBBYING PROGRAM

Our policy and advocacy program focussed on ensuring that systemic barriers that impede access of ethnic and religious minorities (ERM) and culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) individuals and communities and inhibit their participation in decision making processes of government and community are effectively addressed or removed. ECCWA sought to achieve this by enhancing the participation of ERM and CaLD people in the decision making processes of government and community and by advocating for equitable access of ERM and CaLD people to programs and services provided/funded by governments at the national, state and local levels.

Examples of the various activities undertaken in 2018-2019 are listed below;



1.1 Restoration of ECCWA's funding

We once again thank the McGowan Labor government and Hon. Minister Paul Papalia for hearing and agreeing to provide ECCWA funding for "its core membership activities". This funding of \$60,000 for the financial year of 2018-2019 was administered through the Office of Multicultural Interests (OMI) and was the stepping stone for a successful year of activities.

As previously stated by our President Mr Ramdas Sankaran "This marks the end of the systemic discrimination that was initiated/perpetuated by the Barnett government when it defunded ECCWA and required it to meet conditions that other peak bodies that it funded didn't have to meet. Minister Papalia's decision to fund ECCWA means that we are no longer an unfunded Multicultural peak advocacy body. "

This has allowed us to develop a good and constructive working relationship with OMI and opened up the channels for communication with other State and Federal government departments and agencies. The detail of this is in the body of this report.

As most people in the culturally and linguistically diverse community know, we have been the premier advocacy voice in Western Australia for over forty-four years. We have also gained ourselves a national reputation for being one of the strongest voices in Australia for CaLD people and issues. This funding will ensure that this reputation will be enhanced and our work will continue for the foreseeable future.

1.2 Minister Papalia's Ministerial Advisory Group (MAG)

The ECCWA President has continued his active participation in the Minister's Multicultural Advisory Group and was also appointed to the subcommittee responsible for drafting the Western Australian Multicultural Policy Framework.

At a meeting of the above on 21st January 2019, officers from the Department of Communities made presentations on the following:

- 10 Year Strategy for Reducing Family and Domestic Violence,
- State Disability Plan and a plan to advance gender equality over the next 10 years
- the 10 Year Homeless Strategy
- Youth at Risk Strategy

Members of the Committee provided strong feedback and it is our view that ECCWA has a key role to play in providing feedback on all of the above and has done so.

1.3 Racism Issues - ECCWA response to Fraser Anning's Speech

ECCWA was appalled at Fraser Anning's Speech and besides drafting a media release and drawing it to the attention of the Premier, all Cabinet Ministers, FECCA and its Executive members, a range of media organisations, OMI and all ECC member organisations, we undertook the following:

- A letter to the West Australian which was not published
- And an email to the CEO of WACOSS.

Unlike ECCWA it is clear that the Parliament and other National bodies have focussed on immigration rather than the underlying systemic racism in addressing the Anning speech. We believe we need to do all we can to keep the pressure on governments at the national, state and local level as well as societal institutions to stay focussed on racism and discrimination in all its forms. We also need to consider ways to empower CaLD individuals and groups impacted by racism by giving them a platform for this purpose. This is an issue that will be further pursued in 2019-2020.

1.4 Place based funding

ECCWA has raised issues on place based funding in the past and continues to take a strong position against the above which is increasingly becoming the rationale/basis for the distribution of government funding in the community services, health and other sectors.

We therefore again strongly stress our position as follows:

The Ethnic Communities Council (ECCWA) believes that Commonwealth and State governments placing increasing emphasis on place based funding is a cause for great concern.

ECCWA agrees that a focus on place can drive the collaboration across government that is needed to respond to intransigent issues and that such an approach will help agencies to focus on the complex issues in a location, rather than the single issue or direction of an agency.

However, unlike the mainstream communities, CaLD, Indigenous and other minority populations are distributed unevenly across suburbs/regions or whatever units are used by government agencies in defining "place" for the purpose of funding various programs. In terms of numbers, as a proportion of the mainstream population these minorities will not figure significantly in most instances.

But on the other hand, if they were to consider these groups from a metro wide perspective or a south and north of the river perspective you will have a completely different picture.

ECCWA believes this has to be taken into account if the Principles of place-based or whole- place working are to be effectively achieved. They include the following:

- Building services around people and communities;
- Removing barriers to better outcomes and reduced costs through integrated working across agencies
- Involving the business and voluntary sectors as equal partners;
- Collaborating to put together a workable whole public sector approach, joint responsibility and shared leadership
- Local innovation and co-design with central government departments;
- Local delivery and investment mechanisms tailored to local needs and circumstances.

ECCWA would strongly argue that Place-based approaches based on communities of interests rather than those based on “physical locations” would be much more appropriate for effectively addressing the needs of CaLD, indigenous and other minorities.

Many years ago (about 10) the then Department of Community Development or Child Protection as they may have been called, set aside one of the 9 grants they were going to provide for Housing/ Homelessness for servicing the CaLD communities.

To their credit they not only agreed with ECCWA’s views but also had different tender specifications for it. So, without restricting the tender to just CaLD providers, they wanted all bidders to demonstrate their capacity in terms of board representation, policies, staffing, service delivery approach etc. and not surprisingly a multicultural service provider won the tender and it is still providing this service.

If DCD had adopted a “geographical” place based approach it is well and truly possible that the state would not have had a “specialist” multicultural and multilingual housing service.

1.5 State Public Health Plan

ECCWA made a submission to the above back in 2017 and raised some very serious concerns but sadly none of it was taken into account in the interim report that was published in August 2017. We continued to provide feedback to the Department of Health through various methods but the State Public Health Plan which was launched in 2019 sadly still does not reflect the serious concerns relevant to the CaLD community. In fact, very little mention is made of the CaLD community at all. Key issues such as Suicide prevention in the CaLD community and issues of Blood Borne Viruses and Sexual health are very important just to name a couple. According to the State Public Health Plan, “almost four in ten people in WA were born overseas, the highest proportion in Australia. Residents born overseas may likely have different health profiles and may also be less likely to access health services, factors which should be considered when determining the health needs of the population.” Given this acknowledgement, we will therefore need to continue to lobby and advocate to ensure our concerns are heard and action taken to address them.

Hence, ECCWA recently put in a submission on suicide prevention in August 2019 and has partnered with a number of organisations to work with Curtin University to do a research project on Blood Borne Viruses and Sexual health in CaLD communities from October 2019 to January 2021. We have also made an approach to Minister Papalia to provide support to allow us to work with the Universities in Western Australia and Study Perth to ensure that International Students entering Western Australia are provided with culturally appropriate and sensitive mental health support services due to the number of suicides that have occurred and the number of students who find themselves in Domestic Violence situations.

1.6 Sustainable Health Review

ECCWA made a submission to the above and sadly the first report of the Committee has ignored the serious concerns that we raised. The Final Report launched in April 2019 also made little comment

on the CaLD community. The strategies mentioned make no reference to the CaLD community or the need for health services that are culturally appropriate for e.g. the need for specialist multicultural mental health services.

1.7 Review of Carers Act

ECCWA President joined a number of multicultural providers including, Umbrella, AAA, Chung Wah, MSC etc. in a workshop convened by the Department of Communities for the above.

1.8 Federal Election

We undertook a number of activities related to the Federal Elections which culminated in the pre-Election Forum detailed later in this report.

1.9 Palm Sunday rally for Refugees

This event was conducted by the Uniting Church Unions WA and others including ECCWA. The rally was to ensure that we stand together for justice, freedom and safety for refugees and people seeking asylum and that we not rest until freedom comes. It was held on Sunday 14th April, in Perth and Ramdas and Suresh attended this event representing ECCWA. It was also promoting the #Choose Humane program.

1.10 “I Choose Humane” program

We also adopted (at the Pre-Election Forum) the “I Choose Humane” program. This shows our commitment to people seeking refuge in this country. Further commitment to people seeking refuge in this country was displayed when Ramdas and Suresh facilitated the attendance by a Doctor at the Perth Immigration Detention Centre at Perth Airport. This was to provide a detainee with medical treatment and advice when he was being refused this by IHMS and Serco

1.11 Women’s Issues

- Family and Domestic Violence – We provided a written submission to DCS for their 10 year FDV Strategy.
- Vivienne also had meetings with the Directors and Managers of the Family and Domestic Violence Unit on two occasions the last in May 2019.
- Vivienne has been representing the ECCWA at the regular meetings of the Women without Income Forum being held by the Women’s Council for Family and Domestic Violence
- ECCWA also had a stall and participated in the Silent March in November 2018.
- Vivienne also attended the forums run by ACRATH on Human trafficking and has agreed to be involved in their Steering Committee.
- Vivienne is also on the Steering Committee for the White Ribbon “Breaking the Silence Schools program being run in conjunction with Starrick services.
- ECCWA is also a member of the successful multicultural consortia that with ISHAR as lead agency won the four year tender to do FDV Capacity Building training for the Multicultural Communities, Multicultural and mainstream service sectors across WA. Other consortia members are Metropolitan Migrant Resource Centre, Multicultural Services Centre and Orana House Inc.

1.12 Department of Finance Procurement Consultations.

Vivienne attended the consultations being held by Dept. of Finance in relation to Procurement Practices and also had a meeting with the Executive Director of the Department of Finance. Procurement issues are of a major concern and have also been taken up by WACOSS where as a member, ECCWA has the ability to participate in discussions and negotiations. WACOSS has been

working with DOF to try and address the problems within Government agencies and the need for DOF to have a clearly defined role of responsibility. A report has been released and WACOSS is seeking further meetings with the Department of Finance to try and resolve outstanding issues and this is being scheduled for November 2019.

1.13 Supporting Communities Forum

Suresh and Ramdas attended a workshop organised by the above and raised the following:

- Inadequacy of the statistical data provided by the census information
- Suicide rates and mental health requirements for the Transcultural Community
- UNCRPD
- Other resources:
 - Connecting Communities for Kids
 - Center for Australian Progress
 - Close the Gap
 - Australian Early Development Census
 - UN report on disability – community led process
 - Community Insight Australia
 - WA multicultural policy framework (not released yet)
 - Vital signs of Fremantle

Following this, a meeting for ECCWA Board members to meet with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the forum occurred and a number of issues of concern were raised. The Chair was very receptive to the issues raised and suggested ways to deal with them. She has agreed to meet with us again as required.

1.14 Economic Regulation Authority

Our President accepted an invitation extended by Ms. Nicky Cusworth, Chair of the Economic Regulation Authority to be a member of the ERA's Consumer Consultative Committee. This is a very important committee as it is Western Australia's independent economic regulator. Their aim as stated on their website is "to ensure the delivery of water, electricity, gas and rail services in Western Australia is in the long-term interest of consumers." This therefore has significant relevance for CaLD communities and to have ECCWA represented means ensuring the needs of CaLD communities is constantly being considered.

1.15 Department of Human Services- Multicultural Advisory Forum

Vivienne attended the Department of Human Services Multicultural Advisory Forum and had the opportunity to advocate on the issues of:

- Work Bonuses for Carer's payment.
- Centrelink's policy on Proof of Australian Parentage for children seeking Special benefit due to Domestic Violence.

This was very helpful with agreement by Centrelink to see what internal processes they could utilise to address both issues and advise us. She also took the opportunity to advise the attendees of our existence and to request they consider membership of ECCWA if not current members.

1.16 WACOSS-CEWA Forum

Ramdas participated in the WACOSS-CEWA Forum on Tendering and Homelessness program funding. Issues in relation to inadequate funding and the impacts of the Equal remuneration order has the sector looking closely at the impacts affecting many organisations particularly where grants and service agreements have been consistently rolled over for a number of years without adequate and appropriate supplementation of costs.

1.17 Refugee Council of Australia Annual Consultations (RCOA)

ECCWA and MSCWA jointly hosted the annual consultations that RCOA conducted in Perth for service providers on 13 March from 2pm-5pm. The forum was well attended and a number of important issues were raised especially with regard to SETS, Off-shore processing, inhumane treatment of asylum seekers on Manus and Nauru etc. Citizenship issues were also a significant concern.

1.18 FECCA and Navigators Program on Ageing.

Some ECCWA Board members met with Mary Ann Geronimo, Senior Policy and Project Officer, FECCA to discuss the Navigators program which is being implemented across Australia by the Council of the Ageing. We also used this opportunity to raise issues of concern about access to CHSP, HCP etc. so that they could be conveyed to the new Minister for Aged Care by FECCA.

1.19 Suicide within ethnic communities

This, as mentioned earlier, is still a major concern for ECCWA with no specialised multicultural mental health services available. ECCWA will continue to lobby the state and the commonwealth government to ensure that mental health and suicide prevention within ethnic communities are addressed in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner. Sadly, despite drawing the attention of the Deputy Premier and Health Minister, the Hon Roger Cook to the dire state of mental health within ethnic communities in Perth last year and in particular the numbers of suicides that occurred in Perth which the Multicultural Services Centre of Western Australia drew to our attention, little has been done to improve the situation.

ECCWA has now lodged a submission in relation to the State's WA Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2025 in August 2019 and we hope that the State Government will take seriously the concerns we have raised.

1.20 Ethnic Advocacy and Support Team (EAST)

This team was funded by OMI from January 2019 and currently has 0.53 FTE made up by two very experienced advocates. Prior to January the program was operating with these workers in a volunteer capacity.

For the 12 months 2018-2019 EAST provided services to 62 clients and their families from across the metropolitan area. As far North of the river as Butler to as far South of the river as Rockingham.

Sadly, many of the clients assisted (75%) have had issues related directly to or post Family and Domestic Violence. Hence the reason OMI funded EAST to provide FDV support for CaLD persons. While the majority of FDV work has involved women and children, EAST has also assisted male victims and perpetrators during this period with successful results.

1.21 Family Violence

As mentioned earlier this was highlighted as a major issue and ECCWA has taken on board to tackle Family and Domestic Violence in CaLD communities in a comprehensive manner with regards to service models, policies, education and funding and to encourage Government to not only focus on a Crisis response but a Case management response.

As such we now have regular bi-monthly meetings with the Women's Council for Family and Domestic Violence (WCFDVS) looking at the issues facing women without income. We have participated in Forums involving Human trafficking and Forced Marriages and also joined in a consortia (plural of Consortium is Consortia. So what this says is that we have joined a few consortia rather than one consortium with many participants) with ISHAR as lead to successfully tender to provide Capacity building training for the CaLD Communities, multicultural and Mainstream FDV sectors. Other consortia members are MSC and MMRC and Orana Women's Refuge.

EAST is also seeking more volunteers to support the advocates and is in the process of recruitment.

2.0 Meetings with Ministers

2.1 Meeting with Minister Ken Wyatt

ECCWA President and Pius Joseph, Board member, met with the Minister and raised the following issues.

- CaLD CHSP demand is trending upwards but funding does not reflect this.
- Mental Health-Commonwealth and State Governments are increasing funding but CaLD sector continues to be neglected.
- Suicide prevention Commonwealth and State Governments are increasing funding but CaLD sector continues to be neglected.
- Barriers to obtain Australian Citizenship and its impact
- Mainstreaming policy-impact on CaLD agencies
- Homelessness Services-Gaps in Service Delivery
- Lack of a coordinated National Anti-Racism Strategy

3.0 Work with Media

Several issues that we covered with regard to policy, advocacy and lobbying were reflected in our media releases. A list of media releases has been provided and specifically the media release in relation to the events in Christchurch.

3.1 Media Involvement

We issued the following Media releases:

- Is Fraser Anning the ONLY guilty party?
- ECCWA congratulates Minister Papalia and the McGowan government (funding restoration)
- Christchurch is Timely Reminder to Swap Harmony Day for Harmony Week
- Frydenberg Budget Ignores Poverty
- Lessons of Christchurch are too Important to Ignore says Council
- Don't Coloured Lives Matter in this Election
- Liberal Party Condemned for its Boycott of Pre-Election Forum
- Make Your Vote Count this Election

3.2 Other Media Activity

- We had a letter published in The West after the Notre Dame fire.
- We had a letter published in The Age newspaper regarding the Christchurch massacre and the commemoration services there.
- The West quoted us following Fraser Anning's vile comments post Christchurch
- Suresh had an article published by Independent Media Australia. The article was titled "In the shadow of Christchurch is Australia an inherently racist country?"
- We had an article published in WA Today on the subject of International Students and the desire by the McGowan government to massively increase these numbers. Suresh is having further discussions on this matter with a couple of other institutions.
- Suresh and Ramdas were interviewed by WAMN on two occasions
- Suresh was interviewed by 6PR
- Suresh was quoted in The West

- Suresh had a letter in The Age under the ECCWA banner
- Suresh wrote 2 letters and both were published. They related to Immigration and African Gang issues in Melbourne.
- Suresh also did two interviews on WAMN news, which is broadcast online. The issues were in relation to Migrants to regions and Changes to immigration numbers.
- Ramdas was interviewed by West TV before and at the Pre -election Forum.

Christchurch Massacre

This dastardly deed was a wakeup call for Australia especially in terms of focusing all its efforts in terms of legislation, social cohesion focus etc. on so called “Islamic terrorism, whilst “radical white extremism” went undetected.

We issued two media releases on this subject matter and our President was also interviewed by West TV with whom we are discussing the possibility of a weekly program to raise awareness of issues such as racism and discrimination and other CaLD issues of concern.

Dr Rateb Jneid the President of the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils sent us the letter below
“Dear Mr Sankaran

Thank you and ECCWA for their Press Release expressing your deepest condolences on the horrific attacks in Christchurch.

The whole world is reeling with grief and while it is hard to come to terms in this tragic situation it is heartening to see the support pouring for the Muslim community from all over the world.

The view of Islam is clear: God says in the Quran.

“O people, We have created you from a male and a female and made you into races and tribes so that you may know each other. Surely the most honoured of you in the sight of God is the one who is the most righteous of you” (49:13).

Instead of enabling human beings to know each other better, there is no reason why these diversities should create barriers, or cause animosities among human beings.

However, work remains to be done and faith based organizations in consultation with the NGO’s with their communities and government could be instrumental in effecting necessary changes to combat racism. I am hopeful that this tragedy will assist us in ridding the world of this insidious plague of racism.

Once again thank you for your support in this difficult time.

Yours sincerely

Dr Rateb Jneid

President, Muslims Australia (AFIC)

Suresh was also interviewed and quoted in The West as well as on 6PR and WAMN News.

The Federal Parliament and bodies such as FECCA have focussed on immigration rather than the underlying systemic racism in addressing racist speech and action in recent times from Senators and other vested interests in the community. As indicated in a previous report we need to do all we can to keep the pressure on governments at the national, state and local level as well as societal institutions to stay focussed on racism and discrimination in all its forms.

We also need to consider ways to empower CaLD individuals and groups impacted by racism by giving them a platform for this purpose.

Suresh also attended two events of commemoration. One was at the Perth Mosque and featured the Haka and the Corroboree. The other was at Kings Park and facilitated by the NZ Community

4.0 EVENTS Held or Attended

MULTICULTURALISM, INTEGRATION AND COMMUNITY HARMONY PROGRAM

Goal: To ensure that the benefits of Multiculturalism and multicultural citizenship are achieved and CaLD and wider communities are provided with the information, skills and opportunities to promote Integration and Community Harmony.

ECCWA sought to achieve the above by increasing awareness of and addressing issues relating to racism, discrimination and community harmony within ethnic and the wider communities

4.1 ECCWA and Amnesty International Refugee Event for Refugee week.

Suresh organised and represented ECCWA at the joint ECCWA and Amnesty International Refugee Event at Aranmore College. This was highly successful and received a lot of positive feedback, including from OMI.

4.2 Australian LGBTIQ Multicultural Council's (AGMC)

The Australian LGBTIQ Multicultural Council's (AGMC) approached ECCWA to assist with the WA book launch of their anthology published by Wakefield Press *Living and Loving in Diversity: An anthology of Australian queer adventures*. This ground-breaking book is edited by international researcher Dr Maria Pallotta-Chiarolli and contains over sixty stories of lived experience by Australian multicultural and multifaith LGBTIQ people. It has been launched in NSW, Victoria, SA and nominated for a LAMDA Award in the US and features some known names such as Benjamin Law and Anton Enus.

For WA, it was an opportunity to join in a national discussion on the vast, but less visible, intersection of multiculturalism, faith and diverse sexuality and genders. A [Facebook page](#) is also available which documents this books amazing journey.

The AGMC's main partner The Centre for Human Rights Education at Curtin University provided the venue for the WA launch. Ramdas represented ECCWA at the event and his input was warmly received.

4.3 One Billion Rising Perth Event (OBR)

The OBR Perth event was again successful and raised the profile of community initiatives that seek to empower women to expose and speak out against all types of violence against women.

Both the EO of the Women's Council for Family and Domestic Violence and the EO for ECCWA were in attendance and said a few words to encourage women to come forward and to help develop the best responses possible for CaLD women.

There were a number of dance performances and poems and performances from women of all ancestries and the message supporting and advocating women's rights and welfare particularly for women among CaLD communities to end violence was very strong.

Migrante (an ECCWA member) was the main organiser but ECCWA and MSCWA were represented on the organising committee and were co-sponsors of the event.

4.4 Community Languages WA (CLWA) Student Presentation

This event in WA was hosted by Community Languages WA (CLWA) an ECCWA member organisation. It was held at the ECCWA premises and ECCWA organised the venue set up and cleaning as well as the catering. Ramdas joined the President of CLWA in welcoming participants. The feedback received from the President of CLWA and the participants was very positive. The event was held on 18th May 2019 and was attended by about 50 students/parents. ECCWA will be seeking to co-host events with other member organisations as well.

4.5 Pre-Election Forum

The Federal Pre-Election Public Forum was held on 8th May 2019 at Multicultural House, 20 View Street North Perth and the theme was “We are Ethnic, We are Taxpayers and We Vote”

Representatives for the parties were:

ALP – Dr Anne Aly Member for Cowan
Australian Greens- Hon Senator Jordon Steele-John
Liberal Coalition – sadly were not represented

Moderator for the event was Suresh Rajan -Secretary of ECCWA

Each member was allowed to give a 7-minute presentation followed by questions from the audience and the public on matters of particular interest and concern to ethnic, faith and other minorities.

The event then concluded with a 3-minute response by representatives of each party.

ECCWA’s election manifesto was uploaded on its website. ECCWA saw this as an important initiative to promote Informed Voting. The event was also live streamed on Facebook.

Policy submissions

The ECCWA has made the following submissions this year

1. ECCWA Homelessness Strategy Submission
2. Family & Domestic Violence 10- year final submission
3. Voluntary Assisted Dying submission
4. Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee's Inquiry into the Migration Amendment (Strengthening the Character Test) Bill 2019 [Provisions]- ECCWA Submission

As an example, attached below is the submission made on Homelessness. The others can be found on our website.

Directions Paper for the 10-Year Strategy on Homelessness ECCWA RESPONSE

1 Background:

1.1 The Ethnic Communities Council of WA is the state's peak ethnic umbrella organisation and its objects include inter alia:

- To act as the peak body for ethnic communities in Western Australia, that shall advocate for the rights of ethnic communities in ensuring the protection of these rights.
- To ensure the rights of the ethnic communities including effective participation in decisions which affect them, and encourage the sharing of community resources.
- To do and to perform all acts, matter and things as are charitable and for benevolent purposes having public benefit in accordance with the law of the State of Western Australia and the law of the Commonwealth of Australia and to disseminate any information within a Social Justice framework that achieves the objectives of the Council in ensuring equity and access to and for ethnic communities.

In fulfilling these objects the Council has responded to many inquiries, consultations etc. organised by state and commonwealth government agencies. The Council places a strong emphasis on Human Rights and would strongly argue that a Human Rights framework is essential for addressing Homelessness and other such social conditions effectively. It is from this perspective that the Council is pleased to respond to the abovementioned Directions paper.

1.2 This response is based on feedback received from its management committee, its member agencies that provide services to people who are homeless and/at risk of being homeless as well as other stakeholders.

1.3 In addition to the feedback provided in this response we request that the Department of Communities also take into account the experience and feedback that CaLD Homelessness agencies that it funds under NPAH and NAHA have conveyed to it via service reviews and other means.

2 Introductory comments:

2.1 ECCWA commends the government and the Department of Communities for committing to a 10-Year Strategy to address Homelessness and commissioning a Directions Paper for the same. Such a long-term approach is vital for some of the issues that contribute to homelessness or people being at risk of homelessness are many and systemic in nature.

2.2 It is ECCWA's belief that homelessness cannot be addressed with a "one size fits all" approach and it requires an approach that considers the various social and economic determinants that result in people being homeless or at risk of homelessness. In this regard it is commendable that the Directions paper has indicated that "Homelessness is more than a housing problem i.e. People find themselves at risk of or experiencing homelessness for many reasons and require a range of supports in addition to safe, appropriate and affordable housing."

2.3 ECCWA also believes that this cannot be achieved unless the transectionality of gender, age (youth and seniors), Aboriginality, ethnicity/faith, LGBTQI, disability, Non English Speaking and other factors such as recency of arrival in Australia, are effectively considered.

2.4 Given the aforementioned context it is disappointing that there is no reference to CaLD in the section, "Relationship to other strategies", in which the Directions paper identifies other strategies, plans and initiatives that are currently being developed or implemented across the Department of Communities, state and local government, and the community that relate closely to the Homelessness Strategy.

2.5 It is even more disappointing that the report "*Homelessness in Western Australia: A review of the research and statistical evidence*", which has played a significant role in providing the "evidence basis" that influenced the content and recommendations of the 10 year strategy has not addressed the issues of CaLD homelessness adequately. It did not even have a definition of CaLD and it ignored the CaLD data that it could have easily accessed via the Department of Communities SHIP database. That report also made no reference to the multiculturalism framework that WA has had since former Premier the Hon. Geoff Gallop introduced namely the Multiculturalism Charter, the Anti-Racism Strategy, the Language Services policy and the Substantive Equality policy.

2.6 Finally and most importantly, the glaring absence of CaLD membership in the Supporting Communities Forum-State Homelessness Strategy Working Group is unconscionable i.e. it has 20 members but not even one from the CaLD/Multicultural Sector. This also highlights the woeful under representation of the CaLD/Multicultural sector in the Supporting Communities Forum which does not have a CEO from that sector, in sharp contrast to all other sectors. This situation is much worse when you consider the composition of the Key Stakeholders presumably identified by the Working Group. ECCWA is not mentioned under Peak bodies but there is a reference to the Multicultural Services Centre of WA, which is not a peak body and in any case was not involved in this exercise as a key stakeholder. No CaLD housing services provider is mentioned under NAHA/NPAH funded bodies. There is also no mention of the Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests and the Office of Citizenship under "Ministers" and State and Local Government" respectively. Another notable omission in the consultative mechanism is the absence of ECCWA and or a CaLD Housing Services provider in the Housing Advisory Round Table.

The cumulative impact of all of the above is one of the main reasons why the Directions paper and the 10 year strategy have failed to adequately capture the extent and nature of CaLD homelessness and how best it can be addressed.

3 Supporting Communities Forum- State Homelessness Strategy Working Group

It is pleasing that Homelessness was identified by the Premier as a key priority for the Forum in 2018 and government procurement process of community services was one of the seven working groups that were established by the Forum. The stated Purpose of this working group is, “To develop a project plan that provides an overview of four sub-projects identified to enable effective implementation of the Delivering Community Services in Partnership Policy 2018.”

“The project areas include:

1. Co-design in a Procurement Context;
2. Practice Review; and
3. Co-commissioning / Group Buying and Integrated Services.
4. Outcomes based procurement practices (on hold).”

“The Key stakeholders are dependent on the specifics of each project and may include inter alia Not-for-profit community services organisations and Not-for-profit community services peak bodies.” Astoundingly, ECCWA has not been included in the latter and it is not aware of any CaLD services provider being involved in the capacity of the former.

4 Scale of the problem

The Directions paper has some interesting statistics regarding the above and in relation to People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, it states that they “make up a significant minority of people accessing homelessness services. In 2017–18, 12.7% of people accessing specialist homelessness services in Western Australia identified as being born overseas. The top three regions that people were born were Sub-Saharan Africa (563 people), Oceania and Antarctica (508 people) and South-East Asia (444 people).

ECCWA believes the extent of homelessness amongst people of CaLD background would be significantly higher when you also consider the situation of older people, those suffering from mental health conditions and women and children affected by family and domestic violence. The Directions paper notes that “Family and domestic violence is the leading cause of people seeking assistance from specialist homelessness services in Western Australia. In 2017-18, 45% of people who accessed specialist homelessness services in Western Australia had experienced family and domestic violence.” ECCWA understands a significant proportion of women using the services of Refuges are from CaLD backgrounds and this is also not mentioned in the Paper.

In the case of people of CaLD background secondary rather than primary homelessness is more frequent and this has not been captured adequately in any of the reports/data that have been included in the Directions paper.

5 Brief Response to Summary of key findings of Consultations

5.1 Homelessness looks different in every community

ECCWA agrees with the above but there are other factors besides those mentioned under it i.e. geography, climate, demographics, the local economy, acute shortage of housing etc. Secondary homelessness leading to unsustainable overcrowding is highly prevalent within certain CaLD groups especially from new and emerging communities.

5.2 A range of housing options are needed

ECCWA agrees with the above for as described by the Directions paper “People who are homeless or at risk of experiencing homelessness are a diverse group with highly individualised needs. We accordingly support the points made under this section but do wish to emphasise the CaLD communities are heterogeneous and their housing related factors should also be taken into account.

5.3 Make services accessible and integrated

This is an extremely important point and unless services collaborate and work together, provision of holistic, wrap-around support that addresses the needs of families and not just individuals, will not become a reality.

5.4 Government agencies need to work together to reduce barriers

ECCWA wishes to emphasise the importance of the above and in addition to the barriers identified in this section we wish to draw attention to the barriers that people of CaLD backgrounds face including limited access to income security for various reasons relating to residency, visa types etc., low proficiency in English, lack of access to interpreters, inability to navigate a complex unfamiliar system, racism and discrimination etc. A glaring omission in this section is the importance of ensuring that OMI which is unfortunately not located within the Department of Communities is involved in a much more substantial way in the work that government departments do regarding homelessness.

5.5 Need to become more culturally aware and trauma-informed

Whilst all providers need to become more culturally aware and trauma-informed it is pleasing to note that the Directions paper has acknowledged that “Aboriginal people and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds need a choice between accessing specialist or mainstream services. There is also an acute need for more interpreters for Aboriginal people and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds to improve access to services.

Meaningful choice will not be available if the policy of mainstreaming is implemented mindlessly and if place-based service provision ignores the reality of the demographic distribution of CaLD and indigenous communities i.e. a much wider interpretation of “place” has to be adopted to ensure this is effectively addressed and government procurement policies should be such that specialist services i.e. “indigenous and CaLD controlled” agencies are considered preferred service providers for such services and are not forced to compete with mainstream providers on an unequal footing.

The Department of Community Development (a previous iteration of the Department of Communities) to its credit (some ten years ago) ensured that the tender for one of nine Homelessness services was worded such that the successful applicant was a “CaLD controlled” agency. Such an approach needs to continue if people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds do have a meaningful choice between accessing specialist or mainstream services.

5.6 Shelter and safety is a priority for people who are sleeping rough

ECCWA agrees with the above and strongly supports the need for more low-barrier accommodation so that it can be accessed by people with mental health issues, people affected by alcohol and other drugs and young people. We note that older people, and people of indigenous and CaLD backgrounds are not specifically referred to and this should be addressed.

5.7 Services should be person-centred, with the flexibility to help people for as long as they need it

ECCWA strongly supports the above and the importance of “the needs of the individual being at the centre of responses to homelessness—supports should be tailored to the needs of the individual rather than a one-size-fits-all approach. We reiterate the point made under point 5.5 i.e. This will not happen if the policy of mainstreaming is implemented mindlessly and if place based service provision ignores the reality of the demographic distribution of these communities i.e. a much wider interpretation of “place” has to be adopted to ensure this is effectively addressed and government procurement policies should be such that specialist services i.e. “indigenous and CaLD controlled” agencies are considered preferred service providers for such services and are not forced to compete with mainstream providers on an unequal footing.

ECCWA also strongly supports the view that there should not be time limits on the provision of accommodation or support services. Services must have the flexibility to be able to assist an individual for as long as they need to help prevent people cycling through repeat episodes

5.8 Give communities a say in designing their own solutions

The above is very important and as pointed out in an earlier section this has not eventuated in the case of CaLD communities. This needs to happen if for no other reason, as the Directions paper states, “Just as the experience of homelessness was different in each region, so were the solutions needed to tackle it. People—including people with lived experience of homelessness—emphasised that they wanted their voices to be listened to and to be active partners in developing solutions for their community.”

5.9. Integrated and accessible mental health and drug and alcohol services are vital

The above is critically important and has ECCWA’s unreserved support. In the case of CaLD communities it is not just the integration that is important but the woeful lack of culturally and linguistically appropriate mental health, suicide prevention and drug and alcohol services.

6 Future Directions

ECCWA’s responses to the proposed vision, principles and focus areas for the Strategy are summarised below

6.1 Vision

The proposed vision i.e. “Everyone has a place to call home and is supported to achieve stable and independent lives” is commendable and ECCWA supports it unreservedly.

6.2 Principles

ECCWA believes that all principles mentioned in the Directions paper are important and is in agreement with what has been conveyed under the following:

- a) Ending homelessness is everyone’s responsibility
- b) Housing is a foundation for life
- c) People’s needs are at the heart of our responses
- d) There is a No Wrong Door approach to service delivery
- e) The right solutions are delivered in the right places
- f) We do what we know works
- g) We hold ourselves accountable for achieving outcomes.

We would like to emphasise from the perspectives of ensuring right solutions are delivered in the right places and that people are provided with appropriate and timely assistance regardless of where they

enter the homelessness system, mainstream services have to be complemented by services provided by Indigenous and CaLD controlled agencies.

As mentioned in the Directions paper co-designing with consumers and communities and Innovation are important. Not much has happened in the CaLD space with regard to the former and in the case of the latter there has been no encouragement according to a member agency for its innovative My Home project which has saved the taxpayer millions of dollars in bed days saved, by Graylands' patients being provided supported accommodation in the community.

We strongly recommend consideration of the following principles.

- In accordance with the human rights framework that we referred to in our introduction, we believe inclusion of access to safe, appropriate and affordable Housing as a human right is warranted.
- Equitable Funding and Representation which reflects the diversity of the homeless and at risk of becoming homeless populations and the capacity to address this diversity and represent the views and concerns of this population by Indigenous and CaLD controlled agencies. The representation should extend to the Supporting Community Forum, HART, the Homelessness Strategy Working Group and other mechanisms set up for this purpose.

6.3 Focus Areas

Focus Area 1: Sustainable pathways out of homelessness

Direction 1.1: Create and trial different types of housing and accommodation that addresses the diverse needs of people across the homelessness continuum

This is a very important strategy to significantly reduce homelessness. However, sustainable pathways out of homelessness are dependent on a number of factors, including employment, and income security, especially when a person is unemployed or under employed; physical and mental health, family and domestic violence etc.

As stated in the Directions paper, "Intergenerational aspect to homelessness is a reality and the evidence demonstrates that experiencing homelessness as a child or young person makes someone more likely to experience homelessness as an adult.

So ECCWA strongly supports "Investing in young people and families to prevent homelessness among adults and look to strengthen responses to youth homelessness." CaLD young people are arguably in a more vulnerable situation, if you consider that inter-generational issues are compounded by their growing up with Australian "norms", whilst their parents may not be,

Another disturbing trend has not been covered and that is the increasing number of single older women being homeless or at risk of homelessness and the need to address their situation.

Actions being considered under this direction make no direct mention of the homelessness related to CaLD people.

It is refreshing to note that looking at new, evidence-based housing models for Western Australia has been included as an action item. In this regard we would recommend consideration of "purpose built facilities for Shared Housing" and the "My Home" project that a member agency has been implementing for several years with absolutely no government funding.

We also recommend the continuation of the ARPP, and looking at ways to make Home ownership/retention more affordable. The Key start scheme currently does not have provision for a mortgage to be taken out for upgrading a house if the owner is not already a Key Start customer.

Direction 1.2: Make more beds available in low-barrier crisis and short-term transitional Accommodation

ECCWA supports the above and the actions being considered to achieve it.

Direction 1.3: Improve service delivery through innovation and collaboration

We strongly support the above and whilst we are pleased to note that “the Strategy will seek innovative solutions to improve service delivery and make services more coordinated and person-centred”, we are disappointed that innovative projects such My Home has not attracted any funding to date, especially given that it can be substantially expanded and the agency concerned is prepared to do it if funding is made available for the same.

Focus Area 2: Prevention and early intervention

Direction 2.1: Focus on families and young people to break cycles of homelessness

We support the above and note that cohorts such as refugees and asylum seekers have not been included under the actions being considered with regard to gaps in services.

Direction 2.2: Better support for people who have recently exited homelessness or whose tenancies are at risk

We strongly support the above and are pleased to note that under actions being considered under this direction include more Aboriginal housing support workers; and ensuring that support services are culturally appropriate and meet the needs of Aboriginal people and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds including delivery by Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations. We wish to emphasise that delivery of services by CaLD Community Controlled Organisations should be included in this section.

Direction 2.3: No exits into homelessness from government institutions including prisons, hospitals and out-of-home care

We strongly support the above and wish to make the following points. CaLD specific support services are currently not available for people exiting prisons and mental health institutions. These need to be included under **actions being considered under this direction**.

Focus Area 3: System transformation

Direction 3.1 No Wrong Door Approach to Service Delivery

We agree that the current homelessness service system is difficult to navigate, with people being passed between services and having to tell their story multiple times.

We agree that the main elements that should underpin a No Wrong Door approach are:

1. Individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness can access the support they need quickly and easily
2. Needs are assessed at the first point of entry. If assistance cannot be provided an individual will be directly connected to a service that will support them
3. Parts of the system are connected so that people do not need to tell their story multiple times
4. Workers are appropriately trained and organisations are resourced to deliver a No Wrong Door approach.

This underscores the importance of ensuring that indigenous and CaLD controlled agencies are equitably represented in the service system especially from the perspectives of points 1-3.

Direction 3.2: Implement integrated, whole-of-government responses to homelessness

The above is very important and ECCWA strongly supports it and the actions being considered under this direction. Additionally we believe the following should also be included:

1. Make the collection of ethnicity data not just related to country of birth but other relevant factors such as recency of arrival, proficiency in English, need for interpreters etc. mandatory.
2. The aforementioned data should be used for service planning and for procurement purposes
3. Monitoring of the implementation of the state government's language services policy should be more vigorous and effective.
4. Housing and related needs of CaLD communities in rural and remote areas is not well documented. Perth based multicultural service providers should be resourced to extend their services via Teleconferencing, visiting program etc. and where there is sufficient volume, local services should be established.
5. Ensure that procurement policies and procedures do not hamper unfairly disadvantage CaLD providers when required to compete with large mainstream providers for not just homelessness services but **all** services relating to the determinants of homelessness. Employment and training, mental health and parenting services are three examples.
6. Ensure equitable representation of CaLD peak bodies and CaLD controlled service organisations on the Supporting Communities Forum, the State Homelessness Strategy Working Group and HART.
7. Delivering Community Services in Partnership policy implementation is not being monitored let alone enforced. This needs to change if collaboration and partnerships between the government and community sectors are to flourish.
8. More rigorous research needs to be undertaken on homelessness within CaLD Communities and the updating of the *Homelessness in Western Australia: A review of the research and statistical evidence*, report should be undertaken as a matter of urgency.
9. People with mental health problems and/or mental illness are greatly overrepresented in courts and prisons. It is estimated that around 74 percent of people in prison have some form of mental health problem in comparison to around one-fifth of the general population, with a high proportion having complex mental health and associated needs which are under diagnosed and poorly managed." It is likely that CaLD representation in this group is growing and it is of concern that there are no CaLD specialist services which addresses the mental health, employment, housing and other needs when
10. Early intervention is a cost effective strategy in reducing homelessness However for early intervention to be effective in the case of CaLD people such intervention has to be culturally and linguistically appropriate. Much more needs to be done as current funding of specialist CaLD housing services providers has limited scope for it.

Direction 3.3: Roll out consistent, trauma informed practice across programs and services

We agree that people who are homeless experience trauma at a greater rate than the rest of the population and consistent trauma informed care is therefore essential for healing and for addressing the underlying issues that lead to people becoming homeless.

Trauma is a major issue within CaLD communities especially within the subpopulations of those who came to Australia as refugees/asylum seekers. Commonwealth funding provided to specialist agencies have been decreasing in recent years.

There is very little evidence that government funded mainstream mental health services are providing services to the CaLD community in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner. Population based planning approach dictates that the needs and concerns of CaLD and indigenous people should be fully integrated in the planning process and not addressed as add on items. Equitable access to primary and other mental health care services will not eventuate unless there is a well-resourced Transcultural Unit within the Mental Health Commission as well as well-resourced community based multicultural mental health providers.

7 Conclusion:

The Council commends the Supporting Communities Forum, the State Homelessness Strategy Working Group and the Department of Communities for the consultations it held and the Directions paper that was drafted.

CaLD western Australians like their other tax paying counterparts are entitled to government funded services that are culturally and linguistically appropriate to their needs and this will not eventuate in this case unless the 10-Year Strategy on Homelessness reflects the views and recommendations contained in the body of this report.

Whilst we do not wish to repeat all of views and recommendations we wish to emphasise those mentioned under Direction 3.2: Implement integrated, whole-of-government responses to homelessness.

For further information about this proposal please contact Ramdas Sankaran, President ECCWA (ramdas@eccwa.org.au) or Vivienne Pillay, Executive Officer ECCWA (vivienne@eccwa.org.au)

Tender Submissions

1 Funding Submissions and Outcomes

Successful Tenders

1.1 A funding submission for \$50,000 for ECCWA's EAST program has been approved by OMI.

1.2 We have been advised that we were successful in obtaining the Community Volunteers grant from DSS for \$5000.00

1.3 We were successful in the Consortium with ISHAR, MMRC and MSC for DCS \$200,000pa FDV capacity building grant. This grant will mean a minimum of \$25,000 p.a. for 4 years will be given to ECCWA for FDV work.

1.4 We were successful in negotiations with Curtin University for a Research Project for \$30,000 for 2019-2021.

Improving health outcomes and service delivery for Australian culturally and linguistically diverse overseas born people in relation to STIs and BBVs

The above is a national research project being undertaken by Curtin University and ECCWA and MSCWA are project partners and partners with other partner organisations in the other states (e.g. Centre for Ethnicity and Health and Relationships Australia SA).

Unsuccessful tender and grant applications

1.5 Fostering Integration Grant (\$50,000) through Department of Home Affairs -was unsuccessful

1.6 We were unsuccessful in our application for a Community Solar Energy Grant.

We are continuing to look at all funding opportunities through Government agencies, Philanthropic Organisations etc

Volunteers and Students.

McCusker Centre for Citizenship

ECCWA has been invited by Ms Michelle Scott, Director of the above Centre to participate in its Internship program. Over the last three years the McCusker Centre for Citizenship at UWA has embedded itself in the Western Australian community.

“The Centre is collaborating with students and the broader UWA community, not for profit and community organisations, government and business to make a difference in our communities locally, nationally and globally.

Through its internship program, the Centre is building the capacity of future generations to foster caring, connected and socially engaged citizens. Its extensive partnerships (over 250) with organisations enables it to provide students with a structured quality and internship experience which facilitates their learning about important social challenges in our community while at the same time developing their skills to make a practical contribution.”

ECCWA has accepted her offer and in 2018-2019 we had two students volunteer for ECCWA. We intend to continue to work with the McCusker Foundation and would like to accept Ms Scott’s invitation to ECCWA’s networks to join the rewarding and unique [internship program](#) and we strongly recommended that all ECCWA member organisations consider taking up this opportunity. More details can be accessed from

<https://www.mccuskercentre.uwa.edu.au/program/internships-organisations>

Of the two students who volunteered with us, one has remained as a part-time employee helping us to develop our website, social media and newsletters etc. The second McCusker Foundation Trainee did some excellent work in helping with tender preparations but finished his placement on 23.05.2019.

ECCWA will also be looking to have more volunteers involved with its services in 2019-2020 and is already working to find volunteers who can assist with the Ethnic Advocacy Support Team.

Treasurer's Report



I am pleased to present the financial report for 2018-19.

The financial report for 2018-19 includes:

- Statement of Comprehensive Income
- Statement of Financial Position
- Statement of Changes in Equity
- Statement of Income and Expenditure
- Summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes

Financial Health

We ended the year as we have in recent years with an operational surplus, somewhat larger though than previous years thanks to the re-commencement of funding from the WA State Government.

In 2018-2019 with Premier McGowan and Minister Papalia approving \$60,000 funding and with ECCWA obtaining funding from various grants we were able to commence employing some part-time paid staff who, together with our volunteers, has made it a very successful year.

ECCWA's financial situation will hopefully continue to improve with us being advised by Minister Papalia that he has approved \$120,000 for the year 2019-2020 allowing us to increase the hours of staff and do further recruitment.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the office bearers' who have had to shoulder the responsibilities of the ECCWA in a voluntary capacity for so many years.

Acknowledgements

I wish to thank Mr. Xiaobing Li who undertook with due diligence, the Review of this year's financial statements in accordance with relevant provisions of the Associations Incorporation Act 2015.

I also wish to thank our Executive Officer Mrs Vivienne Pillay and President Mr Ramdas Sankaran for their input into the review of the financial statements.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of the management committee for their valuable contribution in monitoring the Council's finances.

Rahim Ghauri
Treasurer

ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC.



FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

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ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCIL OF WA INC.

STATEMENT BY THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

In the opinion of the Management Committee, the financial report as set out on pages 3 to 6:

- (1) Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Ethnic Communities Council of WA Inc. as at 30 June 2019 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies used and described in Note 1.
- (2) At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Ethnic Communities Council of WA Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Management and is signed on its behalf:



Rahim Ghauri
TREASURER



Ramdas Sankaran OAM
President

DATED THIS 28 DAY OF October 2019

Certification of Review

I have reviewed the financial statements of the Ethnic Communities Council of WA (ECCWA) for the year 2018-19 and have formed an opinion about the following under Division 5 of the Associations Incorporations Act 2015:

- (a) whether the financial statements satisfies, the requirements of Part 82 of the Act.;
- (b) whether the association has kept financial records sufficient to enable financial statements or a financial report to be prepared and audited;
- (d) whether the association has kept other records as required by Part 82 of the Act.

ECCWA has given me access to the books of the association and they have provided all information, explanations and assistance necessary for the conduct of this review.

I hereby confirm that the:

- Financial statements of ECCWA satisfies, the requirements of Part 82 of the Act;
- ECCWA has kept financial records sufficient to enable financial statements or a financial report to be prepared and audited;
- ECCWA has kept other records as required by Part 82 of the Act.


Xiaobing Li
Master of Professional Accounting (ECU)

Date: 3rd October 2019

**ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCIL OF WA INC.
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019**

| INCOME | 2019 | 2018 |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Memberships Fees | 927 | 1,540 |
| Hire of ECC Facilities | 9,077 | 10,880 |
| FECCA | - | 2,500 |
| East Income- Client fees | 1,424 | - |
| Fundraising ECCWA | 810 | - |
| Grant monies to ECCWA | 93,909 | - |
| Donation | - | 4,081 |
| Other Incomes | 431 | 7,318 |
| Total Income | <u>\$ 106,578</u> | <u>\$ 26,319</u> |
| | | |
| Expenditure | | |
| Operational Expenses | 14,745 | 11,082 |
| Expenses (Grants/Projects) | 43,912 | 5,868 |
| FECCA | - | 1,650 |
| Other Expenses | 3,237 | 7,467 |
| Total Expenditure | <u>\$ 61,894</u> | <u>\$ 26,067</u> |
| | | |
| Net Surplus / (Deficit) | \$ 44,684 | \$ 252 |
| | | |
| Other Comprehensive Income | - | - |
| | | |
| Total Comprehensive Income / (Loss) for the year | <u>\$ 44,684</u> | <u>\$ 252</u> |

**ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCIL OF WA INC.
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019**

| | Retained Surplus 2019 | Retained Surplus 2018 |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Opening balance as at 1 July (at beginning of year) | 47,712 | 47,457 |
| | | |
| Surplus / (Deficit) for the year attributable to members of the entity | 44,684 | 255 |
| | | |
| Closing balance as at 30 June (at end of year) | <u>\$ 92,396</u> | <u>\$ 47,712</u> |

ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCIL OF WA INC.
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30 JUNE 2019

| | | 2019 | 2018 |
|--------------------------------|---|------------------|------------------|
| CURRENT ASSETS | | \$ | \$ |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 2 | 123,719 | 37,054 |
| Trade and other receivables | 3 | - 31,090 | 466 |
| Prepayments | | - | - |
| | | <u>92,629</u> | <u>37,520</u> |
| NON-CURRENT ASSETS | | | |
| Property, plant and equipment | 4 | 10,483 | 11,268 |
| Total Fixed Assets | | <u>10,483</u> | <u>11,268</u> |
| TOTAL ASSETS | | <u>103,112</u> | <u>48,788</u> |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES | | | |
| Trade and other payables | 5 | 9,865 | 1,076 |
| Employee Entitlements | 6 | 851 | - |
| | | <u>10,716</u> | <u>1,076</u> |
| NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES | | | |
| Provisions | | - | - |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | | <u>10,716</u> | <u>1,076</u> |
| NET ASSETS | | <u>\$ 92,396</u> | <u>\$ 47,712</u> |
| MEMBERS' FUNDS | | | |
| Retained Surplus | | <u>92,396</u> | <u>47,712</u> |
| TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS | | <u>\$ 92,396</u> | <u>\$ 47,712</u> |

**ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCIL OF WA INC.
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018**

| | 2019 | 2018 |
|--|--------------------|------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| <u>2. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</u> | | |
| Cash at Bank - Bendigo Bank | 123,135 | 36,745 |
| Cash on hand | 584 | 309 |
| | <u>\$ 123,719</u> | <u>\$ 37,054</u> |
| <u>3. TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES</u> | | |
| Australian Taxation Office - GST | 1,001 | 466 |
| Grant monies to ECCWA | - 32,091 | |
| | <u>\$ (31,090)</u> | <u>\$ 466</u> |
| <u>4. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT</u> | | |
| Building at cost | 26,149 | 26,149 |
| Less: Accumulated Depreciation | - 15,666 | - 14,881 |
| | <u>\$ 10,483</u> | <u>\$ 11,268</u> |
| <u>5. TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES</u> | | |
| Accounts Payable | 6,551 | 1,076 |
| PAYG Withholdings Payable | 3,314 | - |
| | <u>\$ 9,865</u> | <u>\$ 1,076</u> |
| <u>6. Employee Entitlements</u> | | |
| Superannuation Payable | 851 | - |
| | <u>\$ 851</u> | <u>\$ -</u> |

**ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCIL OF WA INC.
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT (DETAILED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019**

| INCOME | 2019 | 2018 |
|---------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Donation(Others) | - | 4,081 |
| East Income- Client fees | 1,424 | - |
| Memberships Fees | 927 | 1,540 |
| Hire of ECC Facilities | 9,077 | 10,880 |
| FECCA | - | 2,500 |
| Fundraising ECCWA | 810 | - |
| Grant monies to ECCWA | 93,909 | - |
| International Women's Day | - | 7,117 |
| Bank Interest | 431 | 201 |
| Total Income | \$ 106,578 | \$ 26,319 |

| Expenditure | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Advertising | - | 486 |
| ADT Security | - | 384 |
| AGM/MC/General Meetings/Functions | 493 | 178 |
| Bank Charges | 37 | 10 |
| Computer Expenses | 2,202 | 458 |
| Depreciation | 784 | 784 |
| Conference & Other Sponsorship | - | 2,500 |
| Consulting & Accounting | 745 | 1,000 |
| FECCA | - | 1,650 |
| East- Client emergency expense | 716 | - |
| East Operating EX. | 363 | 726 |
| International Women's Day | - | 4,812 |
| Fundraising Expenses | 600 | - |
| General Expenses | 5,567 | 1,026 |
| Honorarium | - | 3,273 |
| Insurance | 2,397 | 2,526 |
| Maintenance Furniture / Equipment | - | 1,148 |
| Motor Vehicles | 1,160 | - |
| Office Cleaning | 903 | - |
| Office Expenses | 51 | 135 |
| Printing & Stationery | 348 | 108 |
| Rates and Taxes | 1,708 | 778 |
| Subscriptions | 650 | - |
| Superannuation | 3,374 | - |
| Telephone & Internet | 2,097 | 3,755 |
| Volunteer Grant- Expenses | 2,045 | 330 |
| Wages and Salaries | 35,654 | - |
| Total Expenditure | \$ 61,894 | \$ 26,067 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) | \$ 44,684 | \$ 252 |

Page 6

Harmony was his life

Russell Raymond OAM

Ethnic communities advocate
Born: Colombo, Sri Lanka, 1932
Died: Perth, aged 87

Russell Cuthbert Raymond was a truly remarkable man. He was well loved, respected, and admired by his family, friends, peers and acquaintances. He touched a lot of people through his work and the many projects he immersed himself in.

He started his career as a journalist for the Times of Ceylon as the shipping and aviation correspondent. Before migrating to Australia in 1973, he was also an executive with an English shipping firm and a public relations adviser with BOAC (British Airways).

He also served in the Sri Lanka Volunteer Force and was commissioned to the National Guard as captain.

His journalism career in Australia included working as a sub-editor at The West Australian and as the editor of the Countryman. He was the first Asian to be an editor of a country newspaper in Australia.

Russell retired early and spent much of his time in a voluntary capacity, principally in the multicultural sector but also with mainstream organisations.

In the late 1990s under

Russell's presidency, the Ethnic Communities Council of WA had annual turnovers of more than \$500,000 and full-time senior policy positions focusing on issues relating to women, youth and family.

It was during that period that the Ethnic Disability Advocacy Centre was established under its auspices. This period is accordingly referred to as the golden era of the council.

He subsequently served as a member of the management committee and secretary for many terms. He also served as the administrator of the council in a voluntary capacity for many years.

Russell's use of journalism skills and courage in advocating and lobbying on many issues affecting ethnic and indigenous minorities set the council apart from its counterparts in other States and Territories.

Russell was a member of the board of the North Perth Migrant Resource Centre since its inception in 1980 and his period as chairman was impressive and far exceeded that of all others. Under his leadership, the centre continued to prosper despite the ALP government ending its core funding.

The growth of the centre led former Minister for Immigration, Philip Ruddock, to remark that NPMRC was a beacon among migrant resource centres.

In January 1994, Russell was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for services to the resource centre and to the



forementioned immense contribution to the council and at a national level with the Federation of Ethnic Communities Council of Australia.

He was a deputy chairman on the FECCA executive for more than five years and its honorary secretary for another four years.

He was its representative on the community advisory committee of SBS for many years and its representative on Centrelink's older persons reference group.

He also played a substantial role in organising two FECCA conferences in Perth and the first national conference of immigrant and refugee women which was organised by ECCWA and FECCA.

Russell served on the boards of many organisations, including some in office-bearer capacity, and one of them was the Australia Day Council, of which he was a board member for many years.

He valued his involvement with that council greatly for it gave him the opportunity to bring the ethnic communities into the mainstream.

He served as president of the WA Sri Lankan Association and as a member of the OZ Concert committee.

He also served on the boards of AdvoCare and Umbrella Community Services.

Russell was an exemplary role model in so many ways for hundreds of migrants and refugees.

He was a great listener and had a way of making complex

way he interacted with them and gave so much of his time for a wide variety of social causes. These were some of the qualities that endeared him to so many Australians.

Russell will be sadly missed but fondly remembered not just by the multicultural sector but indeed many societal institutions that he was a part of which have sought to achieve greater harmony, social cohesion, and a much better deal for culturally and linguistically diverse and indigenous Australians.

Music was also a big part of Russell's life and he loved to sing, especially at church. When singing hymns, his voice was always the loudest, but it was so beautiful to listen to. He was a charming MC and was in great demand for such roles at many events.

Russell's quirky sense of humour was evident even after his passing when at his request, a bottle of whiskey was placed on top of his coffin at the service.

His eldest son Chris in his eulogy recalled something that Russell used to say, which will always resonate with him and that was: "Work hard, save your