



# Make Your Vote Count this Election

The Ethnic Communities Council (ECCWA) is urging all voters to ensure that they exercise their franchise today if they have not already voted.

Council President, Ramdas Sankaran emphasised “this was an opportunity that ethnic and other minorities, should grasp and exercise in an informed manner.”

“Sadly neither the Coalition nor the ALP have provided detailed information (by way of funding, procurement and other policy positions etc.) about how their commitments to Fair Go and reducing inequalities will be achieved in areas such as aged care, disabilities, gender equity, health, mental health and suicide prevention etc.” he added.

**“This is what led us to ask the question Don’t Coloured Lives and those recovering from mental illness matter in this election in a media release that we issued two days ago.”**

“It has taken a long time for our political parties to realise the importance of having indigenous controlled organisations to deliver service to indigenous communities and for women to be in senior managerial positions for the promotion and protection of women and ensuring the removal of the proverbial glass ceiling. It’s time that they extended this awareness to how they respond to the needs, concerns and aspirations of ethnic minorities as well” said Mr. Sankaran.

“Regardless of who wins the election our Council will seek to work closely with the incoming government to ensure that mindless mainstreaming becomes history and that effective mechanisms and strategies are in place to ensure Fair go and reduction of inequalities become realities for ethnic minorities as well,” he added.

“The Vote Compass results and other polls show that on many issues including asylum seekers Australians have become more compassionate than on previous electoral occasions. This election has fortunately seen much less dog whistling on this issue but the ugliness of White Extremism was evident in the disfiguring of the billboard photograph of the Treasurer Josh Frydenberg and the posting of White extremist slogans on the Office of Dr Anne Aly, the ALP Member for Cowan. We urge the incoming government to strengthen the Racial Discrimination Act and to ensure religious discrimination and vilification are included under it”, said Mr. Sankaran.

“Our Council extends its best wishes to all political parties other than those that clearly have racist and other discriminatory policies that target ethnic, indigenous and other minorities.”

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