

# Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria

Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria Inc.  
1994/95 Annual Report, Melbourne, ECCV,  
1995.

## Background Information

The Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria (E.C.C.V.) was established in 1974 as a voluntary, non-government community based organisation. It is a broadly based, statewide peak umbrella organisation through which common concerns are discussed, consultation and liaison are carried out with and amongst ethnic communities and issues are brought to the attention of all levels of government.

Its capacity to crystallise the concerns of NESB communities and its broadly representative structure make the Council an excellent medium whereby communication between the Government sector and ethnic communities can be effectively maintained. The Council has and will continue to provide an excellent and cost-effective consultative mechanism for the Government and the non-Government sector.

## ECCV Mission Statement

*The Council's vision is to participate and actively contribute in the development of a society where all Australians enjoy equality of opportunities and realise their potential and the self-esteem that flows from confidence in themselves, their particular culture and their place in a multicultural Australian society.*

*The Council believes in an Australian society which cherishes its cultural diversity and values peace and harmony amongst all its people.*

In order to achieve this, the Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria will:

(a) be an effective advocate and catalyst for

action and consultation; and,

(b) involve, co-ordinate, develop and empower ethnic communities in Victoria.

## ECCV Aims

The E.C.C.V. is committed to the objective that all citizens of Victoria have the same opportunities for advancement, security and reward, regardless of gender, ethnicity, race, colour or religion.

The Council has a role and responsibility to assist Victorians of non English Speaking Backgrounds (N.E.S.B.s), the wider community and the three tiers of Government in its endeavours to ensure both an era of harmonious community relations and the provision of equitable and accessible services to all people in this State.

The E.C.C.V.'s capacity to crystallise the concerns of N.E.S.B. communities and its broad representative structure make the Council an excellent medium to link both the government sector and the non-government sector to ethnic communities within Victoria.

The Council is committed to social justice and equity for its constituency and will continue to develop a more cooperative working relationship with all arms of the Government and the non-government sector in order to both achieve its objectives and contribute effectively to issues of concern.

The Council developed new Rules and a 'Statement of Purposes' and became incorporated under The Associations Incorporation Act 1981 in August 1993. It had previously been registered with the Companies Act 1961.

The aims can be summarised within three categories as follows

**i. Community Responsibility:** Provide a high quality and well developed "advocacy" process in order to ensure that the available Government sponsored programs and services adhere to the guidelines of Access and Equity and meet the needs of the ethnic communities.

**ii. Cultural Developments:** Provide the framework and the mechanism to facilitate and encourage greater participation of ethnic communities in the development of a culturally pluralistic Australian Society with specific emphasis on the maintenance and further development of ethnic cultures and languages.

**iii. Government Relations:** Enhance the mechanism through which Ministers and Government Departments are advised and assisted in their formulation of policies with respect to programs and services being developed for ethnic communities.

## **Role and function of ECCV**

The role and function of the Council could be summarised in terms of four key activities:

**1. Co-ordination Of Advocacy** on behalf of Victoria's ethnic communities on issues of concern and representation of their interests in the formulation of policies, programs and services.

**2. Information Dissemination And Exchange** by providing a forum for Victoria's ethnic communities to discuss developments in government policies, programs and services and also for government to consult with ethnic communities about their policies, programs and services for NESB Victorians.

**3. Community Relations And Development** to promote co-operation between Victoria's ethnic communities and to support activities which foster a culturally diverse society within Australia's national unity and assist specific communities/organisations with the

development of policies, programs and services.

**4. Research** to evaluate existing policies, programs and services and to determine and assess the needs for new policies, programs and services affecting Victoria's ethnic communities.

## **Statement of purposes**

1. The name of the proposed incorporated association is the **Ethnic Communities' Council Of Victoria Incorporated.**

2. The purposes for which the proposed incorporated association is established are:-

1. To encourage the full participation of Victoria's ethnic communities within the social, economic and cultural life of the community;
2. To ensure that there is a co-ordinated approach to the advancement of ethnic and multicultural affairs;
3. To advocate on behalf of Victoria's ethnic communities on issues of concern and to provide representation of their interests in the formulation of policies, programs and services;
4. To promote the special interests of Victoria's diverse ethnic communities;
5. To act as spokesperson for Victoria's ethnic communities;
6. To provide a forum for information dissemination and exchange for Victoria's ethnic communities to discuss issues of concern;
7. To provide a forum for consultation between Victoria's ethnic communities and the Government (Local, State and Federal) on specific areas of concern and to discuss policies, programs and services for Victorians of Non English Speaking Backgrounds;

8. To consult with government, business, industrial, educational and community bodies for the purpose of ascertaining a means of improving conditions affecting ethnic and multicultural affairs;
9. To promote liaison and co-operation between bodies concerned in ethnic and multicultural affairs;
10. To arrange and co-ordinate meetings, discussions, seminars and conferences with respect to ethnic and multicultural affairs;
11. To advise the Government and public authorities on, and assist them in all matters relating to the advancement of multiculturalism and ethnic affairs;
12. To promote and undertake research which evaluates existing policies, programs and services and to assess and evaluate the need for new policies, programs and services which affect Victoria's ethnic communities;
13. To promote and undertake research into the needs for ethnic and/or multicultural oriented services in various areas;
14. To undertake research into and compile information upon the needs of persons of diverse origins, languages or cultures;
15. Facilitate community development to assist specific ethnic and/or multicultural communities and organisations with the development of policies, programs and services;
16. To provide advice, assistance and consultants to those ethnic and multicultural organisations which are without adequate resources and skills to develop their own services;
17. To foster and encourage the development of ethnic languages, cultures and arts;
18. Facilitate community relations to promote co-operation between Victoria's ethnic communities and to support activities which foster a culturally diverse society within the cohesiveness of Australia's national unity;
19. To promote co-operation amongst ethnic communities on issues of common concern;
20. To advise, assist and promote co-operation between ethnic communities and organisations concerned in ethnic and multicultural affairs;
21. To promote and participate in programs of community relations and community development;
22. To foster and encourage greater participation by ethnic communities in the development of a culturally pluralistic Australian society, and to co-operate with other organisations towards this end;
23. To promote co-operation among the diverse communities to achieve a cohesive society;
24. To assist in the development of strategies designed to ensure that multicultural and language policies are incorporated as an integral part of wider social and economic development policies;
25. To participate as representatives of ethnic community groups in the formulation of policies affecting immigration and their integration into Australian society; and,
26. To encourage people of diverse

languages, traditions and cultures to  
preserve their languages, traditions and  
cultures.