

# How I will contribute if elected as Chair for ECC (NSW) ?

Submission from Abbas Raza Alvi  
For the position of Chairperson-ECC (NSW)

## **Present Situation:**

The Ethnic Communities' Council of NSW, a peak body of NSW, was established in 1975 (42 years ago). During the early stage of establishment (within 10-15 years), ECC has made a significant contribution for the establishment of organisations as the Ethnic Affairs Commission of NSW, the Federation of Community Languages Schools, the Association of Translators and Interpreters, SBS Television and Multicultural Community Radio.

In Sydney, in early days of the foundation of the ECC (NSW), a majority of the ethnic communities were living within 10 to 15 KM radius of Sydney. Now, majority of the ethnic community is living within a 30 to 50 KM radius of Sydney and are from all over the world. Few councils in Sydney metropolitan area proudly claim that they have more than 180 language speaking residents / ethnicities living in their area. A good number of ethnic communities is living in regional areas of NSW as well. During the last 2 decades, Configurations, composition, ethnic origins of the communities and pattern of settlement of the ethnic community of Australia has changed a lot.

As per the recent census, 28% of Australians are born overseas, net 60% population increase of Australia is from the overseas migration. On the other hand, these days, all over the world, there are issues of racism, terrorism and security which do not support Multicultural values, Love, Peace & Harmony.

## **My Experience & findings:**

Living in Australia since the last 3 decades, I had opportunities to meet a number of Australians of the ethnic communities in community services sectors, networking, businesses, churches, temples, Gurudwaras, mosques, synagogue as well as in community events in NSW.

The configurational changes in the Ethnic Community also demand some modifications in day to day management of the ECC (NSW). This also needs advance future planning and a strategical policy. Ethnic communities of New South Wales, at present, is in need of special attention, support, help, consultations, work & strong presence of ECC (NSW). ECC (NSW) needs to reach to Ethnic masses all over NSW.

### **What I shall do- if elected as Chairperson?**

#### **1.For our Seniors:**

We all believe and practice respect for our seniors. It is needless to mention that, I shall approach and request all my seniors/ founder members/life members/previous Chairs to advice the ECC Board on regular intervals. To acknowledge the help of our senior as well as for our own history recording and promotion of ECC(NSW), we shall work on a media publication about ECC(NSW). This may be in the form of a book or a digital video history of ECC (NSW). We shall interview effectively the ethnic seniors from Sydney and regional ECC's of NSW.

#### **2.For our youth:**

Youth is the life and main source of progress for any organization. A collective youth voice is the barometer of an active lively organization. I want to see that each member organization of the ECC (NSW) should be motivated to include and provide effective representation in ECC (NSW) & other events of ECC (NSW). I shall try to arrange multicultural youth event dedicated only for youth and by youth from ECC (NSW) in near future.

#### **3.Our External PR & Marketing Strategy:**

Very few newly arrived ethnic community members / CALD community members and even 10-15 years old migrants know about ECC (NSW). In my opinion for external PR, we need a marketing strategy for the promotion of ECC (NSW) in NSW. It is true, if we promote ECC (NSW), we promote our state New South Wales and the values of multicultural Australia. We also need to establish closer cooperation & long term relationship with politicians, Ministers, MPs, government bodies like "Multicultural NSW", multicultural ethnic associations etc.

#### **4.Acknowledgement of Indigenous Contribution:**

We know that indigenous community is the traditional owner of this land. We acknowledge this in our meetings but I think that more than this should be done by ECC (NSW)'s board. Ethnic migrants and Indigenous community must work in cooperation and we must work on some projects along with the indigenous community in partnership.

#### **5.MAT ship:**

I assure that if I am elected, all board members/ elected members of forum shall have definite pre-assigned tasks / responsibilities to contribute & share their expertise in ECC (NSW) and shoulder the "MAT ship" to achieve & demonstrate the positive outcome.

#### **6.Support to other Ethnic Organizations of NSW:**

Funding of projects and events these days are a major task for a number of ethnic organisations due to lack to knowledge, resources and experiences. There are some cases when some newly established organisations are unable to pay insurances charges to book the community premises to arrange their programs and events. I think ECC (NSW), as a

peak representative body should help these organisations who are in early stages of establishment.

#### 7.Balance of basic Core Values & Funding:

Multiculturalism is simply a term which describes the cultural and ethnic diversity of contemporary Australia. As a public policy multiculturalism encompasses governance measures designed to respond to that diversity. It plays no part in migrant selection. As a peak body, it is important and essential for ECC (NSW) to demonstrate, practice & advocate this all the time.

Though funding is an issue for everyone, I believe that we should be selective and apply for those funding which keeps us on our core value path.

#### 8.Other Languages:

As a community networker, I have practical experience of the use of languages and understand the importance of ethnic languages. Though I think that every one of us should have the knowledge of English but I know that a number of senior Australians and newly arrived migrants can't communicate well in English. I do believe that knowing extra languages is benefited to an individual, the community and our country and should be promoted. I shall support this. From the ECC platform , we shall support this fact but request every newly arrived migrant to learn English.

#### 9.Current projects:

I shall continue and finish the left over work arranged by the previous board in current form without any deviation.

With the following quote of Aberjhani , I finish my submission and seek your support for the current election of chairperson of ECC (NSW).

Diversity is in respect of human existence that can't be eradicated by terrorism or war or self-consuming hatred. It can only be conquered by recognizing and claiming the wealth of values it represents for ALL.

Thanks & with best regards,  
Abbas Raza Alvi