

CANDIDATE STATEMENT FOR NOMINATION FOR CHAIR OF ETHNIC COMMUNITIES

COUNCIL OF NSW

MARTA TERRACCIANO

BACKGROUND:

My name is Marta Terracciano and I am currently the Secretary of Ethnic Communities Council of NSW. It is with great passion and enthusiasm that I respectfully submit my application to serve as Chair of ECCNSW. It has been an honour to serve on the ECCNSW Board since 2011, working alongside a dedicated group of professionals.

I respectfully honour the many volunteers of the Board, and on the Members' Forum who have worked tirelessly and have shared in our mission to advance the principles of multiculturalism.

I also commend committed staff of ECC who have as a collective worked vigorously towards the further development of a multicultural society, through their advocacy, education, and community development.

As a member of the Board I have supported and participated in discussions and strategic planning to ensure the organisation remains a credible state wide peak body representing CALD communities across NSW.

WHERE TO FROM HERE?

Having great pride in the legacy of the Ethnic Communities' Council of NSW is what drives me to accept the nomination and run for Chairperson.

If I am elected I will continue the great work of my predecessors. My goal will be to raise the profile of ECC to greater heights. Through consultations with our members, and collaborations with the Board, the Members' Forum, CEO and Staff, the ECC will showcase achievements supporting advocacy and inclusion for refugees, for new & emerging communities and for the more established CALD communities.

These achievements will reflect the prevalence of a strong voice and significant influence the ECC will continue to maintain across priority issues that threaten the social fabric of CALD communities.

If elected as Chair I will embrace the challenge and prioritise the following:

1. Revisit the **Strategic Plan** as it ends in 2018 and re invigorate our position as a member based representative body in the multicultural space. We have made significant gains with our current Strategic Plan, but we will need to build on these accomplishments. Once again as we develop our next Strategic Plan we will undertake a review process, listen to what our member constituents are

saying, challenge our current thinking and ways of doing things for the ECC to develop a subsequent Strategic Plan for the next 3 years that paves the way for ECC to remain an agile robust, and competitive NGO. We must recognise the changes in the environment and the challenges that face ECC in the future, we must work towards maintaining a very successful organisation.

2. With the help of the Board and Members' Forum I will **convene sub committees** who will focus on specific issues facing our members and the broader CALD communities that include languages education, youth , Housing affordability, disability; aged care and the inadequacy of the pension and refugee settlement,
3. In the **Ageing space** I will bring my years of experience to the fore. Our CALD elderly, their families and their carers are in a state of confusion with the introduction of the new Aged Care Reforms. Through the operational work of the ECC office via the CEO & Staff I will ensure that we are represented on key stakeholder consultations, government roundtables and have a CALD voice in the decision-making and policy making both at the state and at the Federal level.
4. Given that our core business is maintaining social cohesion and community harmony I will maintain a rigorous campaign to ensure the racial vilification and citizenship laws do not change to threaten our basic rights as citizens of this nation.
5. The acknowledgment and participation of **our Indigenous communities** in the work of the ECC is not to be neglected. We need to be more proactive in this space. I will ensure that a Reconciliation Action Plan will be developed that commits ECCNSW to restoring the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of this country to a place of equity, dignity and respect.

For many years I have professed a personal commitment and dedicated my career to the advancement of diverse communities.

I have worked in a variety of positions of leadership such as:

- CEO of Residential Gardens for the Spanish Speaking Frail Aged Ltd
- Secretary of The Ethnic Communities' Council of NSW
- Member of the NSW Health Care Complaints Commission and Consumer Consultative Committee
- Member of the Palliative Care Advisory Group

- Member of NGO Housing Partner Reference Group (Housing NSW)
- Vice President of the Board of Directors for the Multicultural Aged Care Inc. (MAC)
- Member of the Spanish-Speaking Ministerial Consultative Committee
- Treasurer of the Liverpool Migrant Resource Centre
- Secretary of the Uruguay United
- President of the Migrant Women Health Centre committee
- Committee member of STARRTS
- Committee member of the Australia-Uruguayan Women's' Association
- Member of the Integral Energy Customer Consultative Committee
- Member for Fairfield Museum Gallery Advisory Board
- Member for the Aged Care Liaison Committee
- Member of the Citizen Engagement Advisory Council,
- Secretary of Canterbury Multicultural Aged and Disability Support Service
- Commissioner of the Community Relations Commission
- Member of Western CEO Network Committee.

I hope to have the opportunity and honour to serve you as the Chair of the Ethnic Communities Council of NSW.

Your vote will not be in vain!

Thank you for your support.