

# ANNUAL REVIEW

SUMMARY 2023





**Ethnic Communities' Council of NSW**  
*Representing All Communities*

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# Messages of Support



On behalf of the Government and people of our State, I congratulate the Ethnic Communities' Council of NSW on another productive year.

NSW is one of the most successful multicultural communities on the planet. Our citizens have more than 250 ancestries and speak more than 280 languages at home.

The strength and vibrancy of our multicultural communities owes much to your member organisations, who support and work with them at the grassroots level.

I pay tribute to your role in advocating for multicultural communities at the highest level and for helping your members collaborate effectively and strengthen service delivery.

As we approach nearly 50 years of exemplary service from your organisation, I invite you to celebrate your recent achievements and I wish you every success in the year ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Minns'.

**Chris Minns MP**  
**Premier of New South Wales**



Congratulations on another successful year of activities by the Ethnic Communities' Council of NSW.

As the peak body for multicultural communities in our state, the ECCNSW has demonstrated its importance in maintaining community harmony.

Long-running projects such as Edible Gardens aim to strengthen social connections and build resilience among families facing challenges, while also promoting sustainable practices.

It was a great pleasure to meet the senior leadership team in August and hear firsthand how the organisation empowers communities across our state.

I congratulate you on your achievements this year and look forward to working with you to achieve better outcomes for everyone.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Kamper'.

**Steve Kamper MP**  
**Minister for Multiculturalism**



Mark Speakman SC MP



Mark Coure MP



Joseph La Posta



Nick Kaldas APM

On behalf of the NSW Opposition, we extend our deep appreciation to the Ethnic Communities' Council of NSW (ECCNSW) and congratulations on another successful year.

The ECCNSW are a fundamental partner in delivering a range of programs and services that strengthen the capacity of the entire fabric of multilingual, multifait, and multicultural communities across New South Wales. The ECCNSW play a crucial role in promoting a vibrant and diverse multicultural society. ECCNSW advocacy extends from language support, to energy programs, household recycling assistance and tech support, acting as an interface to help governments and the Parliament understand the support that our culturally and linguistically diverse communities require.

New South Wales stands tall and proud as a shining example of one the world's most successful multicultural societies and the ECCNSW plays a large role in that success. The ECCNSW is an effective advocate for our multicultural communities and has continued to ensure each community member remains supported and informed. From all your tireless work throughout the pandemic to distribute a large number of Rapid Antigen Tests to your continued work to train community members to provide language support, you play an invaluable role in many local communities.

The NSW Opposition is proud to work with and support the Ethnic Communities' Council of NSW and we look forward to continuing to grow our strong collaborative relationship.

**Mark Speakman SC MP**  
**Leader of the**  
**Opposition**

**Mark Coure MP**  
**Shadow Minister**  
**for Multiculturalism**

Multicultural NSW is delighted to send greetings to members of the Ethnic Communities' Council of NSW (ECCNSW).

Multicultural NSW is proud of the longstanding partnership with ECCNSW and acknowledges their important role representing a diverse array of community groups across the State.

Our strategic partnership aids ECCNSW's members by enhancing their capabilities, ensuring effective representation, and advocating for systemic change. Through these crucial activities, ECCNSW helps lay the groundwork for community development and supports communities to address various issues through strong organisations and representation.

Multicultural NSW greatly appreciates the leadership and collaboration of Chair, Peter Doukas OAM, CEO Mary Karras, and the entire ECCNSW team for their advocacy and community support.

Multicultural NSW recognise that we are stronger together and we look forward to continuing our close collaboration in partnership with and for the communities in NSW, and we eagerly anticipate the continued strengthening of our partnership in the future.

**Nick Kaldas APM**  
**Chairperson**  
**Multicultural NSW**  
**Advisory Board**

**Joseph La Posta**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Multicultural NSW**

# Chair's Message



Peter Doukas OAM,  
Chair

I write this report in acknowledgement of another busy year for the Ethnic Communities' Council of NSW.

The majority of the Board of Management that had presided over our organisation throughout the COVID-19

Pandemic was re-elected at the 2022 AGM and we took on the task of well overdue reforms to our organisation. Most important of these was the commencement of the journey for the Ethnic Communities' Council to become a Company Limited by Guarantee. The 2023 Annual General Meeting and Special General Meeting is the culmination of this journey.

Of course, the year 2023 has not been without its challenges.

The Council mourns the passing of Mr Tony Pun OAM, former Chair of the Ethnic Communities Council of NSW as well as Dr Harry Harinath OAM, the former Chair of Multicultural NSW Advisory board. I also acknowledge that my family, the family of our Deputy Chair, Ms Fiona Mouhtaris and former Board member Ms Maria Georgiou have all been blessed with more children of our own. We are a big family in the Ethnic Communities' Council and on this basis, I acknowledge and mourn those who have passed and celebrate the joys that we have been given this year.

We are of course not immune to international events at the ECCNSW. 2023 has been one of the most eventful years in recent record. The war in Ukraine has continued unabated, and such international events have brought home the reason for a multicultural organisation that is representative and non-government.

The earthquake in Syria and Turkey earlier this year not only devastated communities but brought grief and sadness to many families and associated organisations in Australia. The Council remained active at the time and reached out both personally through its own members to broader communities affected.

We have continued our advocacy both publicly and privately with respect to the war in Ukraine and as this war enters its third year, we will continue to advocate for a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

The war in Gaza has brought out the significance of international events to Australia and how such global events affect our own cherished multicultural framework. The Ethnic Communities Council of NSW has been instrumental not only in advocating for peace and dignity for communities, but also in attacking any examples of anti-multiculturalism in Australia. We continue to condemn the use of Australia's open, pluralistic and multicultural society to voice anti-Semitic and Islamophobic platforms and will always fight for the respectful cohabitation of the communities that live amongst us.

I am often asked to collaborate and comment on the work of our organisation. This year, I engaged in media interviews and public comments, regarding our flagship national programs: *"Speak My Language - Living Well with a Disability"* and the *"Vote Talk"* Program whereby the Ethnic Communities Council of NSW delivered for both the Federal Electoral Commission, and the NSW Electoral Office, and was instrumental in educating the community on the voting process prior to last year's Federal Election and this year's State Election.

As a peak body, we have continued our community advocacy in light of changing times and policy. As a representative

voice, I have made formal parliamentary representations and was interviewed on risk questions surrounding rental scams, affordable housing, international student exploitation, and the impacts of the rising cost of living on vulnerable communities.

We prepared submissions for the Australian Multicultural Review Framework, as well as making submissions in the Energy space while also assisting members in doing so.

I also had an opportunity to meet with the newly appointed NSW Women's Safety Commissioner, Dr Hannah Tonkin to discuss the growing issue of the rise in domestic and family violence, and sexual assault.

This year also saw us become involved in the national referendum on the Voice to Parliament. I am proud of our Board and wider membership for their maturity and for the respectful and understanding manner with which they conducted themselves when engaging in the debate. Whilst there was disappointment with the result, the Ethnic Communities' Council of NSW emerged, unlike other organisations, as a genuine and respectful leader and change agent. We allowed an open and honest debate inside our Board of Management, and within its members during the Voice Referendum and the deliberations that occurred around them.

We will always stand by our First Nation's brothers and sisters in their striving for constitutional recognition and for equality. The ECCNSW is present as the peak body representing multicultural communities, to assist in any way that it can.

I acknowledge our Board members and the dedicated work of the Deputy Chair, Ms Fiona Mouhtar, Secretary, Mr Glen Falkenstein, Youth Chair Mr Joshua Moses and Treasurer, Mr Emanuel Valageorgiou. These individuals have worked tirelessly in a voluntary capacity for the ECCNSW and have navigated our organisation since 2019. In collaboration with our Board, I am proud to say we have never

missed a Board of Management meeting even in the darkest depths of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I also acknowledge our Member's Forum, our dedicated staff, volunteers and stakeholders and the invaluable partnerships that have formed throughout the year.

Many thanks should go to the CEO, Ms Mary Karras who has led the team, and upheld the operational management and ensured the organisation went from strength to strength.

This year marks the 10th year since my original election as Chair of the Ethnic Communities' Council of NSW. Though I have not served continuously as Chair through this entire time, I recognise that I have been involved in significant steps in the organisation. As my time starts to come to an end, I look forward to welcoming a new generation of leadership to assist in implementing the Strategic Plan in 2024. This will also include the coordination of the 50th Anniversary Celebrations in 2025, in recognition of the 50 years of community service of the ECCNSW.

Recent times have proven to us all that international events and issues that are both local and on a national level are causing challenges and struggles amongst many in our communities. Added to this, the economic difficulties with the cost-of-living crisis as well as the localisation of international issues will ensure a busy year ahead. There has never been a more important time for an organisation that is passionate, open, and advocates strongly for multiculturalism as the Ethnic Communities' Council NSW.

I wish everyone a safe and restful holiday, and for those who celebrate the festive season, a Merry Christmas... a Happy Hanukkah... and an amazing New Year.

Yours in multiculturalism,

**Peter Doukas OAM**  
**Chair**

# Chief Executive Officer's Message



Mary Karras, CEO

It gives me great pleasure to present the 2023 Annual Review Report for the Ethnic Communities Council of NSW Inc.

Though compact in size it contains significant events and milestones, that reflect the dedication and

tireless energy demonstrated by the Board of Management, the Staff and the many partners and colleagues we have had the privilege to work with throughout this year.

We have conducted ourselves face to face and virtually to ensure the organisation's core operations of community development, advocacy and education remained our priorities.

As a statewide peak body representing its members, and the broader NSW communities, the ECCNSW has been at the forefront in providing expert advice, putting forward recommendations, steering decision making and influencing changes to government policy and legislation.

This past year we have strengthened our representative voice in such key areas as disability, domestic and family violence and sexual assault, climate change and sustainable environments, homelessness, the utilities (gas, energy and water), women and child safety and the aged care reforms.

To this end as the CEO, I have amplified the multicultural voice through advocacy and presence, at National and State advisory and consultative bodies including:

- ▶ The Attorney General's Advisory Group to inform the National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Child Sexual Abuse

- ▶ The NSW Department of Communities and Justice: Multicultural Consultative Group
- ▶ The Commonwealth's Department of Health and Aged Care: Liaison Group
- ▶ The Sydney University: Sydney Institute of Community Languages Education
- ▶ The NSW Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Ministerial Council
- ▶ Child Safety Statewide Process, Practice and Service Systems Police, Health and Education sub committee
- ▶ Sydney Water: Customer and Community Reference group
- ▶ Jemena Gas Advisory Board
- ▶ Services Australia: NSW & ACT Multicultural Advisory Group
- ▶ The NSW Department of Education; Multicultural Education Advisory Group
- ▶ The NSW Department of Communities & Justice: Coercive Control & CALD Reference group
- ▶ Western Sydney International (Nancy Bird Walton) Airport: Environment Impact Statement Consultative group
- ▶ The NSW Department of Education: Student and Parent External Advisory

Early this year we welcomed a new state government, and as with previous governments, we are building relationships with various NSW Ministers, in particular, the Hon. Steven Kamper, NSW Minister for Multiculturalism, to ensure a multicultural perspective is evident in all state government services and policies.



The NSW government agency, Multicultural NSW, has been a long-standing partner of ECCNSW, and in this past year we have continued to collaborate closely through the Multicultural Peaks Program. Through this collaboration we worked towards the common goal of building and maintaining social cohesion and community harmony where authentic community engagement is at the heart.

Clearly, the current challenges and difficulties facing our communities including housing availability, mortgage stress, the rising cost of living, and the global unrest and suffering as a result of conflict and war, there are concerns that NSW's social cohesion is at risk of unravelling. Our partnership with Multicultural NSW is now more important than ever, and our relationship as its community arm, will remain a significant collaboration in 2024.

Our key operational achievements this year have focused on building the capacity of our multilingual, multifaith and multicultural communities. These would not be possible without the caring, dedicated, and professional staff who have gone above and beyond their role requirements. It is a privilege to be leading this team, and I pay tribute to the invaluable program managers, project coordinators, administration staff and the bilingual/bicultural educators who individually, and collectively, are the central asset of our operations.

Notably, the backbone of the organisation is the steadfast support provided by the Chair, Mr Peter Doukas OAM, the Deputy Chair Ms Fiona Mouhtaris and the entire Board of Management. Their voluntary service is a testament to their expertise, guidance, and unwavering commitment, and I am humbled and incredibly grateful for their trust in my leadership.

Looking ahead, the ECCNSW will experience a period of transition and growth with a new Strategic Plan that will be developed in 2024 to charter a course for the next three years.

I acknowledge and thank the ECCNSW members and supporters, and assure you that I will continue to honour the legacy of the organization by delivering its programs and activities, and its significant advocacy role with hallmark integrity, strength and resilience.

**Mary Karras**  
CEO



National Strategy Advisory Group

# About Us

## Our Purpose

The Ethnic Communities' Council of NSW is the only state wide peak body representing multicultural communities across New South Wales.

## Our Vision

An inclusive Australian society that actively upholds the principles of multiculturalism.

## Our Results

**Our key areas are:**

▶ **ENGAGE AND EMPOWER**

Engage, involve, and empower CALD communities to contribute to, and participate in, all aspects of public life.

▶ **COLLABORATE AND PARTNER**

Collaborate and form partnerships to generate collective action on issues of importance to CALD communities.

▶ **LEAD AND REPRESENT**

Take a leadership role as an advocate for multiculturalism and represent issues of importance to CALD communities to governments and businesses.

▶ **STRENGTHEN AND BUILD CAPACITY**

Strengthen our processes and build organisational capacity to achieve strategic objectives.



# 370

## Community Organisations



**48 years** since we were **founded by multicultural communities** at a Town Hall rally



**\$150,000** the **funding** we received for 2022-23 from the NSW Government through **Multicultural NSW**



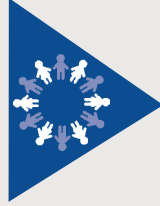
**86%** ethnic community **organisations**  
**18%** other **non-profit** organisations  
**9%** **multicultural** service providers



**12 staff** engaged in advocacy, policy and sector **development**  
**1** specialising in **energy reduction** and **climate change**  
**6** generalists working on **state-wide issues**  
**2** specialising in **community care**  
**5** specialising in capacity building in **ageing** and in **disability**  
**4** engaged in **media** and **communications**

# 75

## Community Representatives



**41** **ethnicities**



**85%** **born overseas**



**32** **language groups** that speak all of the most **commonly spoken** languages in NSW



**12%** **refugees**



**10** **belief systems**

**COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT**

**EDUCATION**

**ADVOCACY**

# Environment

## **Bin Trim Networks Program: CALD social enterprises move towards a circular economy**

**In June 2021, the Minister for Energy and Environment released the Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy (WaSM) 2041 and the NSW Plastics Action Plan.**

The Waste and Sustainable Materials strategy (WaSM) aims to change how the NSW economy produces, consumes, and recycles products and materials, and sets out a vision for transitioning to a circular economy over the next 20 years.

The Bin Trim Networks Program funded through the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has been designed to help meet WaSM targets and support the transition to a circular economy, by targeting networks of business groups with shared characteristics.

ECCNSW has identified from the success of its previous Bin-Trim initiatives, that the growing social enterprises of early learning centres and ethnic religious centres have a significant amount of room to improve in their food and organic waste issues.

The learning from these previous Bin Trim Programs, clearly showed that with skills development, targeted resources, and explicit guidance, (preferably in language) a change in mindset and practice can occur.

Therefore, ECCNSW recently tendered for and received funding to target these social community enterprises and businesses that are in designated areas and suburbs with a high concentration of population from diverse backgrounds.

Through this project, participating businesses and social enterprises are sharing their experiences and formulating



Youth engaged in helping build the Community Garden

recommendations. The ECCNSW is playing a key role as a network facilitator and is pulling levers to ensure knowledge is gained, experience is sought, and recommendations are shared back to government.

## **Community Building Partnership Grant “A Community Garden”**

**Community Building Partnership Grant was funded by the NSW Department of Communities and Justice and helped build a community garden at the Vietnamese Buddhist Youth Association of NSW in Fairfield.**

This completed community garden is playing a significant role in creating a peaceful environment for the members and visitors while they are on-site meditating, chanting, and practicing Buddhism, It was pivotal

for the Association to continue to hold community events each year to help preserve the Vietnamese culture and language, and to provide the younger generations with significant insights into the Vietnamese traditions and culture.

A beautiful garden and a peaceful environment enhances overall wellbeing and mental health, and attracts more people in a community to come and participate in meaningful events and spiritual activities.

This community is now experiencing increased family bonding time, heightened social relationships and connections, and broader youth networks.



Children learning the importance of composting and how to look after a worm farm

### A WestConnex Community Grant Program

**ECCNSW's team of bilingual educators who are experienced in environmental and sustainability projects worked with early childhood centres in the areas where families from various diverse backgrounds predominantly reside (i.e. Vietnamese, Arabic, Korean, Tamil or Hindi, Turkish and Thai).**

Several nominated early childhood learning centres received resources to grow vegetable gardens (developed and installed by a qualified gardener), as well as, composting and/or worm farm facilities, kitchen caddies, and sorting bins so that the young children could participate in hands-on learning activities.

Workshops and educational classes on sustainability-related topics were provided to the staff, children, and families (facilitated in language where needed) to build their capacity in how to manage the installed resources independently and sustainably.



Above: The community garden is flourishing

Below: Open Day – Special guests included the Mayor of Fairfield City Council, Mr Frank Carbone, Federal Independent MP, Ms Dai Le and local Fairfield Councillor, Ms Marie Saliba



Children learning about recycling and how to waste less

### **Building CALD Communities for a Healthy Life and Healthy Environment Project – Resilience NSW (CCCWP)**

**Learning about and practicing sustainability empowers people to construct knowledge, explore values, and develop an appreciation of the environment and its relationship to our world.**

This lays the foundations for environmentally responsible adulthood.



Young children working together to build their vegetable garden.

Families from multicultural, multilingual and multifaith backgrounds may often have limited access and information due to language barriers and social isolation. We know that many communities are only just emerging from the impact of the pandemic.

Through this project the ECCNSW is working with 20 CALD early learning centres and ethnic-religious groups that were most affected by COVID-19 and needed the greatest support. These are places where not only are the young children welcome, but also the parents, carers, families, and the broader multicultural communities who participate.

ECCNSW recognises that in times of uncertainty and stress, such projects benefit individuals, families, and communities as they help build resilience, and better equip everyone to maintain their well-being in challenging times.

# Community Engagement and Development

## Building Social Cohesion – Emerging Leaders Program in the City of Canada Bay

The Ethnic Communities Council of NSW, in partnership with City of Canada Bay Council and the Burdekin Group collaborated on facilitating a leadership mentoring program targeting local interested community members to address attitudes and access and inclusion for: the LGBTQIA+ community, the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) community, and local young people.

The purpose of this initiative was to deliver a visionary leadership program that built capacity and skills, and strengthened community resilience and cohesion in the above-identified diverse groups.

Using a mentorship model, the mentors supported emerging leaders in their learning, and brought with them experience and expertise to the program, creating a safe and productive space for all participants.

Through this leadership program we were able to broaden the capabilities of emerging leaders and equip them with the relevant skills and abilities, to establish connections, and to broaden their community networks with diverse people and other community groups across the local government area.

## Community Road Safety Grant “Be Aware, Be Safe” Transport NSW

In 2022, NSW released its 2026 Road Safety Action Plan, a key element of the state’s commitment to achieving zero deaths and serious injuries on NSW roads by 2050.

The 2026 Road Safety Action Plan seeks to build on the success of the Road Safety Plan 2021 with new road trauma reduction targets for 2030, setting NSW on a path towards zero road trauma by 2050.

ECCNSW’s Be Aware, Be Safe project, is supporting seniors from vulnerable culturally and linguistically (CALD) backgrounds including migrants from new and emerging communities, refugees and those who are recent arrivals.

The ECCNSW’s team of bilingual educators are delivering workshops and information sessions in the following 8 different community languages, Mandarin, Cantonese, Arabic (Assyrian), Vietnamese, Korean, Hindi, Tamil, and Nepali.

The focus of these sessions is on education and awareness raising, and where necessary are being delivered bilingually. This is to ensure that our seniors from migrant and refugee backgrounds, and those from new



Emerging Leaders Program – Mentors and Mentees



**KẾ HOẠCH HÀNH ĐỘNG AN TOÀN ĐƯỜNG BỘ 2026**  
*Hướng tới không xảy ra tai nạn nghiêm trọng trên đường bộ ở NSW*



**50**  
 phút

*Cứ mỗi 46 phút lại có một người tử vong hay nhập viện do va chạm trên đường bộ ở NSW.*

41%	17%	18%	24%	14%
Lái xe quá tốc độ	Người lái xe mệt mỏi	Lái xe sau khi uống rượu bia	Sử dụng thuốc cấm	Không sử dụng dây an toàn

**TOWARDS ZERO** *Những yếu tố hành vi dẫn đến tai nạn tử vong ở NSW*

A simple Community Road Safety Brochure in Vietnamese

and emerging communities, know and understand the most up to date road rules and regulations from both the perspective of a pedestrian and a driver.

**Pathways to Personal Development and Success (PPDS) for Tamil and Thai-speaking Women Project**

The ECNSW’s project, Pathways to Personal Development and Success (PPDS) Program is funded through the Commonwealth’s Multicultural and Citizenship Program as part of the Fostering Integration Grant.

The aim of the PPDS, is to create Success Hubs in specific LGAs that will promote and support the independence of vulnerable women specifically from Tamil and Thai-speaking backgrounds.

Through the facilitation of a 10-week targeted language and culturally inclusive program, Tamil and Thai-speaking women, are being provided with pathways towards self-reliance and independence.

The information, education, and networks covered in these sessions are supporting these women towards economic empowerment and personal success.

The project is building confidence to achieve success in Australia in areas such as job readiness and business ownership, economic literacy, knowledge of Australian society and cultural norms, regulatory awareness, work health and safety, employee/employer rights, digital literacy, and sustainable living.

**Barriers to Hearing Services Program: Access for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Clients – Focus Groups Soundfair**

The purpose of this consultation was to find out more about the experiences of CALD persons in relation to hearing services in Australia, including the Hearing Services Program.

Specifically, it identified the current barriers that CALD people face to access hearing health services, so that recommendations to the Federal Government on how to improve hearing healthcare access for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds (CALD) can be provided.



Barriers to Hearing Services Program - Access in Australia - Arabic focus group

## NSW Department of Education: Focus Groups

The ECCNSW was asked by the NSW Department of Education to deliver in-language focus groups for parents and carers who have children attending NSW public education.

The discussions took place across various diverse groups, and centred on what extracurricular activities are provided to their school-aged children. The discussions sought parents on these activities, and their thoughts on current school hours (including extending the school day).

It was an opportunity for parents to express their views, in their own language, to the NSW Department of Education about the type of extracurricular activities their children participate in, and what they would enjoy doing more or less of.

It was also a chance for the parents to share their thoughts about how an extended school day (school sites being open longer) could support them, their child/ren, and their family, particularly given that the working day is so different for families who are shift workers, are small business owners or sole traders.

## Resilience Workshops, Ryde Council

ECCNSW in partnership with Ryde Council delivered Resilience Workshops on the topic of 'Emergency Preparedness and Sustainability' for diverse community residents in the City of Ryde area.

These workshops were well attended and feedback indicated the "in language" delivery was most beneficial and engaging.

## Climate Change Focus Groups

**Climate change is an issue concerning many of our communities today.**

In partnership with the Multicultural Leadership Initiative (MLI), a not-for-profit organization advocating for building climate solutions, the Ethnic Communities Council of NSW conducted consultations on the topic of climate change.

These consultations were aimed at understanding the perspectives of multicultural, multi-faith, multilingual communities when it comes to the topic of climate change.

Focus groups were facilitated for Arabic / Assyrian, Mandarin, Vietnamese, and Dinka speaking participants by the ECCNSW bilingual educators.



A workshop facilitated in Mandarin

Through a series of questions delivered “in language” the ECCNSW collated the responses and this qualitative data was used to inform MLI’s research project.

A sample of the questions delivered in language during the focus groups included:

- ▶ *When someone says the words, ‘climate change’ - what do you think about?*
- ▶ *Is climate change an important issue for you? Why?*
- ▶ *Is climate change impacting you and your family right now?*
- ▶ *How do you feel about seeing/experiencing the impacts of extreme weather conditions such as fires, floods?*
- ▶ *Do you think your community is ready to confront the challenges of climate change? What would help?*

Most participants were able to recognize the link between food shortages, the change in the weather patterns, floods, and fires to climate change.

However, the general feeling of those who participated was that their communities are struggling with the cost of living and limited financial resources. For those more recently arrived it was felt that settlement is the main focus particularly in finding a job and having a roof over their heads.

Thus, for many in their communities, the issue of climate change was not seen as a priority and as such are not active when it comes to tackling this issue.

There was a consensus from all those who participated in this consultation, that a need exists to start the conversation and engage community influencers, community elders and religious leaders to play a greater role in the discussions about climate change.



An Arabic/ Assyrian focus group participating in an online consultation

# Energy Advocacy

**The renewed focus on energy efficiency standards for new and existing housing stock mentioned previously has continued this year, driven by cost-of-living pressures and very large increases in energy prices.**

ECCNSW is a member of the Healthy Affordable Housing Coalition (HAH) and there have been a range of initiatives for minimum energy efficiency standards for new housing as well as some movement towards similar minimum standards for existing housing, including rental housing stock. This work is by no means complete and the ECCNSW's Energy Advocate continues to engage in this important area.

Every five years the regulated energy businesses (the distribution and transmission businesses - the 'poles and wires' businesses) in each state must get approval for the next five year's revenue expectations from the Australian Energy Regulator (AER). These are complex financial and technical documents and are assessed by the AER which determines how much each business can recover from consumers over the next five-year period. This process is called a 'revenue reset' and is done on a rotating basis across the National Energy Market (NEM) states and territories (Queensland, NSW, ACT, Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia).

The work for the 2024-2029 revenue reset has been in progress for the NSW businesses over the past two years and has included the most extensive consumer consultation programs yet undertaken by regulated energy businesses in Australia.

Each of the three NSW distribution businesses and the one NSW transmission business have established specific panels of consumer representatives to co-design the consultations, to oversee the expenditure forecasts and to represent consumers interests in the process. The ECCNSW Energy



ECCNSW Energy Advocate, Mr Iain Maitland, with two ECCNSW bilingual educators from the team

Advocate is a member of those panels and represents the interests of all consumers with a focus on CALD consumers.

The consumer consultation for these businesses has for the first time included extensive and innovative engagement with culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) consumers, both domestic and small business. These have been organised and facilitated by the ECCNSW bilingual team. The Team has delivered in-language focus groups that enabled a clear understanding of the CALD representation across the Ausgrid network area, proposed key stakeholder influencers, and guided priority activation campaigns based on public safety incident data.

ECCNSW has also participated in the Ausgrid Voice of Community to share the respective CALD community's voice on the energy transition, innovation, climate change, current key challenges, clean energy solutions, future nuclear power supply and solar.

The engagement process has been a resounding success and sets the benchmark for the rest of the National Energy Market (NEM) as each jurisdiction undertakes the future rounds of engagement.

The Australian Energy Regulator (AER) has also engaged the ECCNSW bilingual team to assist it in providing 'in language' information for CALD consumers looking for a better deal on their electricity and gas (see <https://energy.madeeasy.gov.au>) as well as information on

energy efficiency methods and what to do if their energy retailer runs into difficulty.

The ECCNSW Energy Advocate and the CEO are members of a range of energy business customer consultative councils and groups (the three NSW Electricity Distribution businesses Ausgrid, Endeavour and Essential Energy, the NSW Electricity transmission business Transgrid, the retailer AGL and Jemena Gas Network). Our Advocate is also a member of the AER Customer Consultative Group (AER CCG), the Healthy and Affordable Homes Coalition (HAH) and the Public Interest Advocacy Centre's Energy and Water Consumers' Advocacy Program (EWCAP). The Advocate joins the Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC) and the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) Consumer Forums and the Energy and Water Ombudsman Consultative Council on a regular basis.

These representations are vital as ECCNSW continues to amplify the CALD voice in these complex energy sectors.

## The Energy Transition and the Future of Gas – Jemena

**ECCNSW on behalf of Jemena Gas, facilitated several community engagement opportunities for its customers (and non-customers) to ascertain their thoughts on what is happening in the gas and energy sectors, the future of gas, and energy transition and understanding the impact on their respective communities.**

Throughout these community engagement forums and focus groups, four strong key themes were identified.

Strong key themes came through from the feedback. These included the following four:

### 1. Gas cultural connections

Many expressed there was a strong cultural connection to and preference for gas for cooking. Some participants expressed reluctance to give it up under any circumstances.

### 2. Environmentally aware

There was an overall desire to improve the environment and many participants agreed they would consider doing what it takes to meet the net zero target as they had come to Australia for better conditions including the environment.

### 3. Vulnerable connections

Participants expressed a feeling of insecurity within their community due to isolation from the mainstream, lack of voice, and lack of access to benefits/subsidies.

### 4. Desire for renewable gas

There was a strong desire to continue accessing gas into the future, and if renewable gas is the way to do this, they would oblige and support it.

The CEO of the Ethnic Communities Council was invited to become a member of the Jemena Advisory Board to share thoughts around the future of energy, in light of the CALD customer feedback provided through these forums and focus groups.

The Advisory Board was another way that Jemena listened to their stakeholders about what is needed from the gas distribution network, and the Ethnic Communities Council of New South Wales was pleased to be an integral member of this Board, playing a key role in informing the development of Jemena's 2025 -2023 Pricing and Services Plan.



ECCNSW CEO interviewed on the uncertainty of gas in the future and its impact on CALD communities

# Family Safety Program: Men Against Violence, Project

**The Department of Social Services (DSS) has provided funding to ECCNSW for the delivery of the successful project, Men Against Violence Project (MAV).**

This program was initiated in 2018 and has gone from strength to strength in its impact across multicultural communities in western Sydney, specifically Auburn, Bankstown, Blacktown, Liverpool and Parramatta areas

The project engages Wellbeing Connectors (WB's) to empower men from Arabic, Assyrian, Dinka, Sudanese, Tamil, and Punjabi backgrounds to become the pipeline for change by challenging current perception towards domestic and family violence in their community.

The key to change is to build the capacity and resilience from within the community.

During 2022-2023 the Wellbeing Connectors conducted meaningful conversations with 539 men at various informal gatherings such as coffee shops, parks and places of worship. Of these, 90% pledged their support and spoke to another five men in their communities.

The Wellbeing Connectors are trusted and connected men in their communities. The conversations they facilitated were in language and enabled open discussions on men's wellbeing, identifying triggers, understanding dowry abuse and fostering a better understanding of Australian law that helped with changing their attitudes and behaviours towards women and children.

The following comments expressed by the Wellbeing Connectors captures the benefits of their participation in the project:

*This project has successfully raised awareness about DV and has helped men in our community to open their minds about different types of violence and alter their behaviour for the better.*



MAV Wellbeing Connectors raise issues and discuss solutions

*Moreover, it is commended for effectively spreading knowledge about domestic violence to enhance family safety.*

*I'm grateful for the opportunity to be part of this project, and I encourage other men in our community to get involved. Together, we can make our community a safer place for everyone... Raged Tater*

*Being a part of the Ethnic Communities Council, I am very much connected with the young as well as old people in my community to spread the word about men being against violence.*

*Ethnic Communities Council is really doing a great job with the CALD communities, and I am glad to be working with them as a Wellbeing Connector for the "Men Against Violence" project... Mani Ramasamy*

The MAV Project has been extended for another year, and the ECCNSW will continue to harness its project model and will be facilitating deeper conversations on the impact of domestic and family violence on children and young people.

# Sector Support and Development in Aged Care

## Inner West Sydney Sector Support Development and Training (IWSSD&T)

**It has been an interesting and eventful year for the Inner West Sydney Sector Support Development and Training Program.**

In partnership with NSW, and National Sector Support Officers, the ECCNSW Sector Support Development and Training Officer delivered numerous initiatives, including best practice forums, capacity building training sessions and developing resources under the Department of Health's Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) funding received by the ECCNSW.

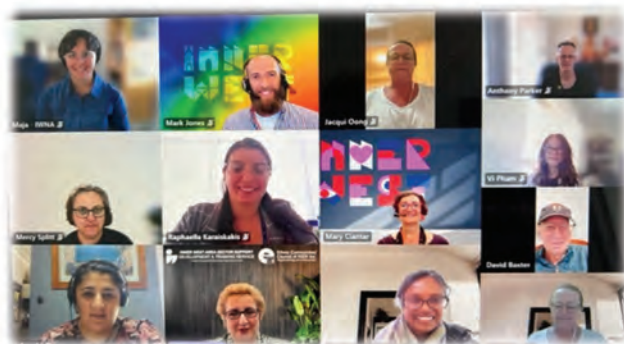
Specific activities focused on the aged care reforms, co-designing resources in response to local needs, capacity building and training, and engaging with relevant stakeholders to boost possible future workforce.

Dementia is a very challenging disease in our older communities. The IWSSD&T Officer, alongside the aged care sector and in partnership with Dementia Australia and various local councils, worked on strengthening regional dementia services pathways and improving access to aged care services for clients. Through the Inner West

Dementia Alliance, the IWSSD&T Officer collaborated with Carers and recipients with lived experience, numerous CHSP providers, the Sydney Local Health District and the University of NSW to identify local priority areas and create possible future solutions.

The ECCNSW's IWSSD&T Officer coordinated and delivered various capacity building sessions, facilitated round table discussions and attended presentations on relevant research and practices on Aged Care Reforms. This enabled growth in knowledge and expertise and encouraged providers to embrace and prioritise the implementation of the Commonwealth Government Aged Care Reforms.

The ECCNSW's IWSSD&T Officer utilised an electronic e-newsletter that enabled 147 aged care providers across the Inner West Sydney Region, and the broader sector, to receive the most up to date information and resources on implementing the Reforms. The e-newsletter contained topics of interest such as local news and initiatives, aged care reform updates, Department of Health and Aged Care updates and other important information and resources for service providers to assist service providers to understand and transition to the new aged care system.



Inner West Region's Dementia Friendly Community Alliance

This electronic platform of communication provided an opportunity for services to undertake the transition without compromising their day-to-day business of delivering quality care.

In addition to the e-newsletter, the Inner West Aged Care Services Website, not only supported the CHSP providers in the Inner West Sydney, but also community members, their families, interested parties, as well as aged care and other sector support providers across the state and nation.

The website proved easy to navigate, and information including current Departmental information, local age care services information, helpful links, training and resources, publications, and local area initiatives provided quick and efficient access to information. Most importantly the website was used as an interactive platform for online workforce training and promoting the availability of capacity building sessions.

This year two specific online training modules were developed and uploaded onto the website with numerous staff and volunteers utilising these resources. The training modules and workshops available to paid staff and volunteers contributed towards the building of a confident and knowledgeable aged care workforce.

During these times of aged care reform, the provision of quality training is critical. The ECCNSW's IWSSD&T Officer, in



A training module

partnership with other State and National Sector Support Development Officers and consultants facilitated the delivery of interactive events/webinars, capacity building sessions, workshops, and roundtable discussions. Priority topics such as the New Aged Care Act, compliance and board briefings, aged care workforce recruitment strategies and wellness and reablement approach were well received and highlighted the important need for training.

These sessions were tailor-made and co-designed in collaboration with the ECCNSW's IWSSD&T Officer, the ECCNSW's Multicultural Sector Support Development Officer and the NSW SSD Training Network. The aim of the sessions and resources were to upskill CHSP management, staff and volunteers of CHSP funded organisations and to assist the sector with planning and moving towards the new aged care system.

Whilst these activities are a snapshot of the interactive activities facilitated throughout the year, evaluations and feedback that were received clearly showed that these sessions assisted the sector to plan for continuous improvement during this time of change.



Website link: <https://innerwestagedcareservices.org.au/>



## NSW Multicultural Access Program – MAP

**The NSW Multicultural Access Program aims to support Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) service providers through reforms.**

This is in preparation for a new in-home aged care system, that operates effectively in line with the objectives of the impending new model of CHSP and within the context of the broader aged care system.

With the changes to the aged care system and the reforms taking place, service providers supporting culturally, linguistically, and religiously diverse communities need assistance and support to be able to adapt and transition smoothly when the reforms take place in 2025.

When engaging with seniors from multicultural, multilingual and multifaith communities, service providers face challenges in providing appropriate care for seniors from such diverse backgrounds.

Support needs to be culturally responsive, linguistically suitable, and religiously sensitive with consideration for a person's physical, psychological, social, cultural, and spiritual wellbeing.

Achieving this support is more complex, as providers must go the extra mile to maintain these services. Providers are under constant pressure to keep up with the Departmental changes as a service system, as well as ensuring the care provided to elderly from culturally, linguistically and religiously diverse communities is not compromised during this period of transition.

Through the Multicultural Access Program, auspiced by the Ethnic Communities Council, the CALD providers across NSW, are being provided with support, training, and updated Departmental information.



The MAP Officer participates in a Communities of Practice established by the Department of Health this year. This initiative aims to develop and promote collaborative partnerships that build the sector's awareness and capacity to apply the new reforms particularly in regional /rural services across NSW.

This year the Multicultural Access Program has gone from strength to strength ensuring support to service providers to deliver quality services that are responsive to culturally, linguistically and religiously diverse needs.

The ECCNSW's Multicultural Exchange Hub continues to share reform related best practice resources and initiatives on a centralised on line platform.  
<http://multiculturalexchangehub.com.au/>

# Speak My Language (Disability) Program

**It has been said that the stories we tell...  
shape the world we live in.**

The Speak My Language (Disability) Program harnesses the power of storytelling to amplify voices that are rarely heard in the mainstream, redefining the way our communities view disability.

This flagship Program has succeeded in producing over 470 interviews in 24 languages, sharing information and advice about living well with a disability. The interviews highlight the accessible and inclusive opportunities, activities, and experiences available to people with disabilities from culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

The Ethnic Communities' Council of NSW is leading the Program in a historic partnership between all State and Territory Ethnic and Multicultural Communities' Councils across Australia.

The National launch of the Program took place in Sydney on 17 October 2022 in Sydney, bringing together representatives from all states and territories. The event featured a



live panel with storytellers who participated in the Program, sharing insights about inclusion and accessibility. The panellists included founder of Dance N Roll, Ms Rocca Salcedo, disability advocate, Mr Yousif Assafiri, and Chairperson of the City of Sydney's Inclusion (Disability) Advisory Panel, Ms Nidhi Shekaran. The event was livestreamed across Australia, reaching over 500 people online.



National launch of the Speak My Language (Disability) Program

The Program's key point of difference is its focus on mainstream services and activities that people with and without disabilities can enjoy together, no matter their cultural background or whether they are eligible for NDIS funding.

One of the Program's Spanish speaking storytellers, Santiago Martinez, states in his interview, *"it turns out that there are hundreds of inclusive opportunities out there, of great value, that can make our life something really worthwhile. It all starts with normalising our condition as people who have disabilities. Because that does not make us better or worse. It simply leads us to live a different life experience."*

The Speak My Language (Disability) Program is funded by the Commonwealth Department of Social Services (DSS) under the Information Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) Program, and has received a funding extension to continue this life changing Program until mid 2024.

With a renewed focus on radio, the Program is extending its reach through a national broadcast strategy in 2023-24. After having worked closely with SBS Audio in 2022, the current strategy taps into community and volunteer led radio stations in all states and territories. Additionally, Vision Australia Radio is broadcasting new Speak My Language (Disability) content featuring storytellers with low or no vision.



Santiago Martinez

By forging new partnerships, the Program is also supporting Indigenous Australians living with a disability to share stories that build capacity and inclusion. The Ethnic Communities' Council of NSW has entered a creative partnership with the Gadigal Information Service to broadcast these exciting interviews through Redfern's Koori Radio.

Access and equity are principles that the Ethnic Communities Council of NSW values highly, and in an effort to make the Program as accessible as possible, transcripts for select storyteller interviews are now available online in English and in community languages. These transcripts give the deaf community an opportunity to enjoy the recordings, while the English transcripts mean people across cultures can access the interviews.

The Program's positive focus on living well has challenged cultural stereotypes about disability. By sharing the unique voices of those with disabilities from different cultural backgrounds, the Program offers new insights into where inclusion and accessibility can be found in contemporary multicultural Australia.



# Digital Literacy

## Tech Savvy for CALD Seniors (TSS) Program

**The Tech Savvy program is in its 8th year, and is a successful digital technology program. This milestone was celebrated recently with the Tech Savvy participants from Rockdale Library together with the Minister for Multiculturalism, the Hon. Steven Kamper.**

The Ethnic Communities Council of NSW is very proud to be a partner in the delivery of this Program to seniors in the community as the Program has played a major role in keeping them informed, connected, and updated.

For the 10,000 seniors who have participated over the past eight years, this Program has provided new opportunities for them to remain relevant in today's fast changing world, has taught them new skills, and helped them to stay in touch with family and friends, from both near and far.

This year, sessions were offered in English to cater for English speaking groups as well as being facilitated in several languages including Arabic, Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Korean, Hindi, Tamil, Greek, Italian and Spanish by the team of ECCNSW Bilingual educators, and engaged multifaith, multilingual and multicultural seniors groups.



Korean TSS program at the Wentworthville Point library

The topics covered included:

- ▶ tips on how to connect with family and friends,
- ▶ how to maximise the use of iPhones and iPads,
- ▶ ways of downloading useful Apps,
- ▶ online banking and shopping,
- ▶ an awareness of Cyber security,
- ▶ how to set up an email address
- ▶ ways of searching the Internet.

In this round the Program reached over 1600 participants from culturally, religiously and linguistically diverse backgrounds and 772 mainstream participants.

These sessions were delivered in 35 local libraries across the Sydney metropolitan area, with a total of 330 sessions held throughout the year.

The Program has proven to be a lifeline for those communities isolated by language and technology barriers and has also equipped seniors to identify scams which is a major issue facing our communities today.

This was particularly evident during the days of COVID pandemic where everything shifted to on line platforms. This exacerbated the digital exclusion of CALD seniors, created a barrier to accessing local news and reliable information, health, and government services, and caused increased social isolation.

Face to face classes delivered in language and in a culturally appropriate and safe manner has opened the opportunity for CALD seniors to learn at their own pace, to ask questions confidently, and to receive one on one support where needed.

Feedback from participants has been extremely positive. The following is a testimonial from Senthamilselvi who attended the Tamil Program at Strathfield library:



Milestone TSS celebration at the Rockdale library together with the NSW Minister for Multiculturalism, the Hon. Steven Kamper, and NSW Shadow Minister for Multiculturalism, the Hon. Mark Couré (previously Minister for Seniors, Minister for Multiculturalism)

*“After attending the Tech Savvy Seniors program in my mother tongue Tamil, I got the confidence of using smartphone. Being a senior, I felt embarrassed to learn the proper usage of my phone. My family members don’t have the patience to teach me. Fortunately, I started learning so many activities such as downloading songs, apps, forwarding sweet memories photos to others and so on.*

*Whenever I feel lonely during day or nighttime, I started listening to Tamil songs (App downloaded during the smartphone introduction class). This has a big change in my lifestyle. I don’t feel loneliness anymore, because I can listen to Tamil songs from various parts of the world, through a single touch on my smartphone.*

*After I started using the NSW Trip planner, I now feel very confident and comfortable to travel by bus or train. Always feel there is someone with me.*

*The best I have learnt is online shopping and online banking. Because of such online transactions I saved my time going to the bank and standing in the queue and able to find the offers available in various shopping centres. At the same time, I learnt how to gift a person through online purchase. This is an opportunity that takes my life to a new dimension”.*

The Tech Savvy for CALD Seniors program is more than just about digital improvement. It has social and psychological benefits for our seniors. Keeping them connected, staying informed, updated and mentally active, participating in meaningful and purposeful activities and experiencing feelings of belonging in a community are all essential elements to reablement and wellbeing.

The Ethnic Communities Council of NSW acknowledges and thanks its partners, the State Library, Telstra and the NSW Department of Communities and Justice.



Multicultural group at the Chester Hill library with ECCNSW’s Bilingual Educator, Mr Rageed Tater

## Building Digital Skills “Be Connected” Program

The “Be Connected” Program was funded by the Good Things Foundation through the eSafety Commission, and its aim was to provide digital literacy lessons to CALD seniors.

The project assisted 15 seniors from Gujarati, Hindi, Tamil, Vietnamese, Mandarin, and Korean speaking backgrounds with various digital literacy modules throughout the program so that the seniors are confident to be independent when using their digital devices.

Feedback from the participants clearly showed that it helped support their well-being by ensuring they were able to meet their basic on line needs and staying socially connected with family and friends.



“Be Connected” session delivered in Punjabi

## Digital Media

**ECCNSW effectively utilised its digital news page and social media platforms to disseminate valuable information, highlight pertinent community events, and raise awareness about our various projects and activities.**

For example, during specific times, such as the end of the financial year, we facilitated the distribution of in-language support resources from the Australian Taxation Office, ensuring that our community members had access to essential financial information.

Additionally, we featured significant initiatives from Multicultural NSW on our platforms, including the listening tours in Sydney’s North and East. These tours provided a platform for community leaders and service providers to discuss issues affecting the community, contributing to Multicultural NSW’s agenda for the upcoming year.

Furthermore, we actively shared details about the Multicultural NSW Stronger Together Grants Program, which aims to provide support for multicultural festivals and events throughout NSW.

As part of our commitment to continuous learning, we shared our experience in organizing the “Creating Podcasts Training” workshop for our bilingual educators. This comprehensive workshop covered all aspects of podcasting, from pre-production to production and post-production. These podcasts serve as valuable resources for our CALD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse) communities, offering information on subjects such as disability support, aged care assistance, and participation in elections.

On a regular basis, we disseminated, promoted, and shared this pertinent information through our newsletter, website, email communications, and various social media channels.

# “Vote Talk” Program

**The NSW Electoral Commission partnered with The Ethnic Communities Council of NSW (ECCNSW) to facilitate and deliver engaging, culturally appropriate educational information to CALD communities in their own language through the “Vote Talk” program.**

The purpose of this engagement was aimed at increasing enrolment, electoral awareness and the voting formality rates of people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds during the NSW State elections held in March 2023.

A total of six language groups were involved in the awareness raising campaign. Based on ABS data showing high numbers of multicultural communities across Western Sydney, the following languages were identified as the focus of the “Vote Talk” Program including Arabic, Cantonese, Greek, Korean, Mandarin and Vietnamese.

The Ethnic Communities Council of NSW engaged with communities and successfully delivered 23 podcasts, over a four week period of on air interviews (122 mins of on air time with ethnic broadcasters) and delivered 30 face to face community engagement sessions with more than 500 community members, who pledged to raise awareness to another five friends and family members.

This Program was successfully delivered to multicultural communities across NSW,



and was not about who to vote for, or which political party to follow. Educating diverse communities in their own language, empowers individuals to make informed decisions during election times, and makes them confident to participate in Australia's electoral processes.



# Abridged Accounts

The abridged income statement and balance sheet for the Ethnic Communities' Council of NSW Inc (ABN: 66 291 586 945) for the year ended 30 June 2023 have been prepared from the audited financial statement approved by the Management Committee, who are responsible for these financial statements as well as the information they contain. The unabridged accounts and audit report by Meagher Howard & Wright may be obtained from the Council.



Mr. Emanuel Valageorgiou, Treasurer

## Income Statement for the Year Ended 30 June 2023

	FY 2023 \$	FY 2022 \$
<strong>INCOME</strong>		
Grants	3,408,848	2,500,989
Interest Received	18,508	9,708
Membership Fees	5,465	7,925
Rent Income	104,639	106,507
Unexpended Funds Rollover	(829,518)	(25,339)
Sundry Income & Service Fees	602,315	271,866
<strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong>	<strong>3,310,259</strong>	<strong>2,871,655</strong>
<strong>EXPENDITURE</strong>		
Administration	685,675	331,224
Audit Fees	3,900	3,800
Bank Charges	785	1,093
Building Expense	158,359	63,536
Computer, Support & Software	49,432	56,575
Insurance	10,593	13,929
Media & Web Design	15,636	24,797
Employees & Contractors Expenses	2,252,361	2,443,532
<strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong>	<strong>3,176,741</strong>	<strong>2,938,486</strong>
Surplus (Deficit) before income tax	133,517	(66,831)
Surplus (Deficit) after income tax	133,517	(66,831)
Retained earnings at the beginning of the financial year	1,302,119	1,368,950
Retained earnings at the end of the financial year	1,435,637	1,302,119



## Balance Sheet 30 June 2023

	FY 2023 \$	FY 2022 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	3,608,395	2,712,341
Trade and Other Receivables	76,553	31,624
Prepayments	15,177	-
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>3,700,125</b>	<b>2,743,965</b>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, Plants and equipment	2,300,000	2,300,000
<b>Total NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>2,300,000</b>	<b>2,300,000</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>6,000,125</b>	<b>5,043,965</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and Other Payables	272,482	405,368
Provision for Employees	196,903	180,892
Unexpended Funds Rollover next year	2,173,033	1,343,516
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Building/Vehicle Improvement Reserve	132,070	22,070
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>132,070</b>	<b>22,070</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>2,774,488</b>	<b>1,951,846</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>3,225,637</b>	<b>3,092,119</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Reserves	1,790,000	1,790,000
Retained Earnings	1,435,637	1,302,119
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>3,225,637</b>	<b>3,092,119</b>

# Board of Management



**Peter Doukas OAM**  
Chair



**Fiona Mouhtaris**  
Deputy Chair



**Emanuel Valageorgiou**  
Treasurer



**Glen Falkenstein**  
Secretary



**Joshua Moses**  
Youth Chair



**George Bouteris**  
Board Member



**Christine Lynch OAM**  
Assistant Secretary



**Sam Pashalis**  
Assistant Secretary



**Abbas Alvi**  
Board Member



**Jack Passaris OAM**  
Board Member &  
Founding Life Member



**Ada Cheng**  
Board Member



**Suellyn Lin**  
Board Member



**Indarjit Khuman**  
Board Member &  
Life Member



**Siddique Panwala**  
Board Member



**Amir Salem OAM**  
Board Member



**Mary Karras**  
CEO

## Board of Management

The ECCNSW Board of Management is a subset of the Members' Forum and includes all office bearers. The Board of Management's responsibility is to oversee the governance of the association in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 and the ECCNSW Constitution on behalf of its members.

Some of the key activities of the Board include:

- ▶ Ensuring a strategic plan is developed to secure a sustainable future that enacts the objects of the ECCNSW Constitution
- ▶ Monitoring progress against the strategic plan
- ▶ Managing finances and resourcing the strategic plan
- ▶ Meeting all legal requirements
- ▶ Ensuring the organisation has policies and procedures in place
- ▶ Managing risk

## Members' Forum 2022-2023

Abbas Alvi  
Ada Cheng  
Amir Salem OAM  
Arbin Lal  
Christine Lynch OAM  
Con Pavlou  
Emanuel Valageorgiou  
Fiona Mouhtaris  
Fotini Loukis  
George Bouteris  
Georgia Anastasopoulos  
Glen Falkenstein  
Indarjit Khuman  
Irene Passaris  
Jack Passaris OAM  
Joshua Moses

Maria Georgiou  
Maria Lillis  
Maria Markos  
Mary Karras  
Patrice Laskas  
Patty Markos  
Paul Tsanis  
Peter Doukas OAM  
Peter Onisforou  
Sajana Nand  
Sam Pashalis  
Siddique Panwala  
Steve Mouhtaris  
Suellyn Lin  
Vasiliki Laskas

### Life Membership Bestowed

George Wojak AO, MBE  
Eddie Raiss  
Ross Tzannes AM  
Angela Chan  
Jack Passaris OAM  
Ian Lacey AM  
Josie Lacey OAM  
George Varughese  
Anthony Pun OAM  
Indarjit Khuman  
Jon Soemarjono  
Mahrukh Batliwalla

# Staff and Volunteers

## Staff List

### **Mary Karras**

*Chief Executive Officer*

### **Christine Ahn**

*Project Co ordinator*

### **Marina Antonas**

*Inner West Sector Support Development  
and Training Officer*

### **Louise Easson**

*Media and Communications Officer*

### **Karen Li**

*Administration Officer*

### **Esther Lozano**

*Digital Communications*

### **Iain Maitland**

*Energy Advocate*

### **Mariette Mikhael**

*Project Co ordinator*

### **Fadi Nemme**

*Men Against Violence (MAV) Project  
Co ordinator*

### **Vanessa Papastavros**

*National Program Manager  
Speak My Language (Disability)*

### **Natalie Phan**

*Inner West Sector Support Development  
and Training SSD Support Officer*

### **Rosa Stathis**

*Community Engagement Adviser*

### **Patricia Vaz**

*Vote Talk Officer*

### **Patrick Wang**

*Financial Officer*

**We thank the many volunteers  
who give of their time so graciously  
for the Ethnic Communities'  
Council of NSW**



Mary Karras



Christine Ahn



Marina Antonas



Louise Easson



Karen Li



Esther Lozano



Iain Maitland



Mariette Mikhael



Fadi Nemme



Vanessa Papastavros



Natalie Phan



Rosa Stathis



Patricia Vaz



Patrick Wang

## Bilingual Educators

### Arabic

Anwar Yousif  
Rageed Tater  
George Georgees  
Yasmin Ibrahim Mohamed  
Munzer Emad  
Fida Al Haddad

### Cantonese/ Mandarin

Haiyan Li  
Natalie Chau  
Louie Leung

### Dinka/ Sudanese Arabic

Emmanuel Kondok  
Mayuen Arop  
Elnayal Abdelrahim

### Greek

Antonios Ampatzis

### Gujarati

Daksha Prasad

### Hindi

Patricia Vaz  
Jayanthi Purushotham  
Shilpashree Nagaraja Rao

### Italian

Francesca Cutrupi

### Korean

John Kim  
In Sang Yu  
Misook Ahn  
Soon Weon Park

### Mandarin

Ye Lu  
Jing Grace Lu  
Wenyang Han

### Nepalese

Rishi Acharya



Bilingual Educators with Mary Karras, CEO

### Punjabi

Arvind P Issar  
Ashok Kumar

### Spanish

Jimena Escobar

### Tamil

Mani Ramasamy  
Alex Balasanthiran  
Kumar (Dharmarajah Dharmakumar)  
Jayanthi Purushotham

### Thai

Kanyarat Tresise

### Turkish

Adnan Alca  
Asli Alca

### Urdu

Marium Khan

### Vietnamese

Phung Ngo  
Le-Tam Tu  
Ha Do  
Nguyen Thuy LE