



**Ethnic Community  
Services Co-operative**  
*A voice for diversity and inclusion*



**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2022**





## Acknowledgement of Country

**Nya wawa ECSC, baya didjarigura, Cadigal Wangal Ora, nya djalgala nura, wiring guwul ora.**

**We at ECSC, would like to say thank you, to the Cadigal and Wangal People, for letting us share your land, we promise to look after it.**

*ECSC would like to acknowledge the Cadigal and Wangal clans of the Eora Nation as the traditional custodians of the land on which we work. We recognise the strength, resilience and capacity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging across Australia.*

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# Introduction

## OUR STORY

Since 1979, ECSC has been championing and advocating for the rights of CALD children, people with disabilities, older people, their carers and families. ECSC has grown its reach by responding to changing CALD community needs, funding models and legislative and policy changes within the community services sector. These changes have seen a diversification in the work that ECSC undertakes which now includes NDIS and CHSP service provision. Despite changes within the sector, ECSC continues to be values driven organisation ensuring that principles of multiculturalism underpin every aspect of the work undertaken throughout the organisation.

## OUR VISION

**An Australian society that celebrates and values diversity and equal opportunity and encourages participation and inclusion.**

## OUR PEOPLE AND OUR STAKEHOLDERS

Our bilingual/bicultural workforce speak over 20 languages supporting participants through direct services, information, advocacy and referral. Our ECSC team is made up of 30+ qualified and experienced staff, over 100 Bicultural Support Workers and more than 20 volunteers. We acknowledge and value the strengths that our volunteers and participants bring to our work and to ECSC.

Our stakeholders include children from CALD backgrounds aged 0-12 years and their families, people living with disability from 0-65 years of age and their carers, family members and advocates and CALD seniors living at home and their carers. We work closely with service providers, government bodies, policy makers and our ECSC members.

## OUR WORK

We continue our commitment to a human rights-based approach to service delivery, support the employment of a diverse workforce, and are the forefront of innovation in the children's, disability and aged care sectors. We continue to highlight intersectional disadvantage experienced by many people from CALD communities and advocate and promote for the rights of CALD people through systemic advocacy and input into local, state, national and international policy.

We will continue to be a bold and passionate organisation that will strive for positive social change, to provide equity for CALD communities. And we will continue to do this in collaboration with our participants, stakeholders, and partners.

# Our Board



**Jane Brock**  
CHAIRPERSON

Jane has been on the Board of ECSC since July 2002. She has been the Executive Officer of the Immigrant Women's Speakout Association (IWSA) since 2002. Jane is also an active member of Migrant Australia, an organisation that strives to provide essential support services to Filipino migrants in Australia.



**Rosanna Barbero**  
SECRETARY

Rosanna joined the Board of Directors in 2014. Rosanna has over 20 years' experience working in the global justice movement, based in Asia and the Middle East. Rosanna is currently the Chief Executive Officer of the Addison Road Community Centre Organisation in Marrickville.



**Samantha Damoulakis**  
TREASURER

Samantha has been with the Board since February 2015. She has been working in children's services for 23 years with 17 years as the Director of the Greek Orthodox Community of New South Wales' Child Care Centre and now is a Field Officer for Department of Education Early Childhood Directorate. Samantha is particularly interested in the Anti-Bias Curriculum approach to early learning and in developing an environment that supports inclusive practices.



**Shikha Chowdhary**  
DIRECTOR

Shikha has extensive experience managing multicultural services and programs in aged care, disability and children and family services. She has worked at ECSC since the early 1990's and in mid-2017 was appointed the Executive Director of ECSC.



**Vivi Koutsounadis**  
DIRECTOR

Vivi has been a champion for the rights of CALD communities in Australia for more than 40 years. She is a strong advocate for multiculturalism, access and equity, and continues to advise government on developing policy that meets the needs of all Australians. Her leadership of ECSC over many years helped to establish our reputation as an organisation of integrity, passion and commitment.



**Yusra Metwally**  
DIRECTOR

Yusra is a Solicitor and Senior Policy and Projects Officer at Western Sydney Community Forum. Yusra sits on the Bankstown Hospital Consumer Committee and is the founder of Swim Sisters, a grassroots initiative which aims to improve water safety skills in culturally and linguistically diverse communities in Western Sydney.



# Our Board



Dina Petrakis  
DIRECTOR

Dina has worked in Australia and the Asia Pacific region on large scale social justice and capacity building projects. She was Head of Education for NSW Corrective Services and in 2009 developed the successful and internationally recognised IGNITE refugee enterprise program for Settlement Services International.



Manal Zahra  
DIRECTOR

Manal is an Arabic Community Worker at Tripoli and Mena Association. She is working towards her Bachelor of Education Degree at Curtin University and has worked in volunteer and paid roles in the community and education sectors.

**"Acknowledgement  
also to the ECSC  
Board of Directors who  
championed and led the  
organisation throughout a global  
pandemic and were instrumental  
in supporting the transition of  
ECSC in and out of lockdown."**

Dina Petrakis, Chief Executive  
Officer, ECSC

# Message from the Chairperson



ECSC's relevance to its multicultural communities over the past 12 months is a testament to the staff, stakeholders and partners, volunteers, member organisations and the Board of Directors. The combination of experience, skills, foresight and vision ensured that the organisation provided valuable service delivery to the most vulnerable clients during lockdown and in general throughout the pandemic.

The unique, strong and trusting relationship we have with our communities, built over four decades, provided the underlying foundation to the successful reach of our services and programs. These relationships will remain core to our success.

Over the past 12 months we have supported more than 2,000 clients and the impact of this connection cannot be underestimated. Our Multicultural Aged Care services delivered food (with the support of Addi Rd emergency hampers) to people in their 90s living alone. The Multicultural Disability Services staff ensured that people with lived experience, their families and carers were connected and supported throughout this period. And our Multicultural Children's Services staff provided bilingual and bicultural support online and via phone for families in need.

ECSC was successful in maintaining its ILC and CHSP grant funding during the year as well as receiving Federal and State sponsored COVID support. It was with some relief that the

lockdown ended early 2022 and ECSC spent the ensuing months getting ready to resume face to face service delivery.

The Board continues to develop its role in evolving ECSC's strategic direction, led by Ms Shikha Chowdhary who retired in early June 2022. On behalf of the Board of Directors of ECSC we acknowledge Shikha's contribution to the organisation which spanned over three decades and we recognise her leadership during the COVID pandemic.

We welcome new CEO Dina Petrakis to ECSC. Dina brings a wealth of international and domestic experience to ECSC will no doubt lead and strengthen the organisation towards a sustainable future.

Finally, I would also like to thank the staff, volunteers, the Board and members for their ongoing support of Ethnic Community Services Co-operative.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Brock". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Jane Brock**  
Chairperson, ECSC





**"Over the past  
12 months we have  
supported more than  
2,000 clients and the impact  
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Jane Brock  
Chairperson, ECSC



# Chief Executive Officer's Report



I was excited and energised to take over the leadership of the iconic Ethnic Community Services Co-operative in June 2022. Having worked for large-scale organisations domestically and in the international space, I will commit my experience, skills and expertise to grow and sustain ECSC well into the future and consolidate its position as a leader in multicultural service delivery.

Like many NGO's over the past year, ECSC faced continuing challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. There was a reduction of \$117,240 to the ECSC reserves for FY21/22, a movement of \$676,940 from FY20/21. This movement was mainly due to additional, non-recurring, COVID-19 funding being allocated to ECSC in FY20/21.

While this non-recurring funding was critical for the organisation to continue and maintain its service outputs, future proofing the organisation will include reviewing and updating policies and processes to improve financial and business controls. These controls will drive an ongoing focus on income generation and cost management resulting in positive increases in reserves for future strategic initiatives.

During this period our program areas continued to service ethnic communities through culturally appropriate care. Staff ensured they maintained the highest level of health practices in the delivery of ECSC services.

Multicultural Aged Care Services (MACS) provided online engagement with interactive activities for

CALD seniors keeping them connected and involved. Members of the team presented at the national FECCA conference in Melbourne and assisted in the organisation of the Let It Shine CHSP national conference. A successful Cultural Bridges event was hosted at Randwick Town Hall heralding the return of face-to-face events.

Multicultural Disability Services supported over 200 people living with disability during this period. MDS were invited to attend the NDIA consultations for the CALD Strategy in Canberra where advocates provided real life examples of participant experiences. NDIS support coordination reached participants as far away as Darwin and the service continues to grow in reach and efficacy. The Volunteer Program was instrumental in packing emergency food hampers (thanks to Addi Rd) for older people who were isolated and immobile.

Multicultural Children's Services provided 763 hours of bicultural support for children and their families during the last 12 months and ensured that ECSC's popular Survival Words resource could be accessed by early childhood services. The team delivered anti-racism training and their work was recognised by the Department of Education through ongoing funding for Inclusion Support.

Thank you to all the staff and volunteers of ECSC who, despite the challenges of the past year, continued to provide culturally appropriate reach to communities ensuring





MACS supporting the religious and spiritual needs of CALD seniors. The Vietnamese social support group visiting Bao An Buddhist Temple in 2021.

services met community needs. ECSC clients were provided with timely and up to date health information, food provision through hampers, service delivery online and over the phone, and mental health support.

Acknowledgement also to the ECSC Board of Directors who championed and led the organisation throughout a global pandemic and were instrumental in supporting the transition of ECSC in and out of lockdown.

To our stakeholders and partners, we could not have done this without you, and we look forward to working together even more closely in future.

Finally, a special thank you and farewell to Shikha Chowdhary who after more than three decades at ECSC retired in June 2022. Shikha worked alongside and influenced the leadership of the organisation ensuring it maintained its currency and relevance over some of the most challenging times. We all wish her a happy retirement.

**Dina Petrakis**  
Chief Executive Officer, ECSC

# Our Strategic Goals



## VISION

Our vision is that of an Australian society that celebrates and values diversity and equal opportunity and encourages participation and inclusion.

## PURPOSE

Continue to advance **access** and **equity** to all services and **social inclusion** within Australian society for people from CALD backgrounds.

**AIM 1:** Enhance the visibility, presence and voice of the organisation.

**AIM 2:** Achieve long-term financial sustainability and growth.

**AIM 3:** Nurture innovation, creativity and best practice.

## OUR VALUES

**Trust • Respect • Diversity • Social Justice • Empowerment**



# Multicultural Aged Care Services

The ongoing toll of the COVID-19 pandemic during 2021/2022, once again brought unprecedented challenges for our Multicultural Aged Care Services. Obstacles arose quickly and we had to ensure we were always maintaining the highest level of health practices and care for our clients and staff. The MACS team rose to the challenge, making many changes on the go and providing real time solutions to ensure our CALD seniors could continue to participate fully in our various activities as much as possible, whether that was through digital access or face-to-face.

In 2021/22 our Commonwealth Home Support program activities, funded by the Australian Government Department of Health, included: Multicultural Social Support Services (Group and Individual) Chinese, Greek, Indonesian, Italian, Malaysian, Portuguese, Russian and Vietnamese (Inner West Sydney and Eastern Sydney and Care Relationships and Care Support, Centre-based and Flexible Respite (Inner West Sydney).

We continued to support the NSW Aged Care sector more broadly through our Sector Development and Support Multicultural Access Project (Inner West Sydney and Eastern Sydney), our new EnCOMPASS project (Eastern Sydney), as well as supporting the provision of culturally appropriate care and support with our highly skilled bilingual workforce through our Multicultural Aged Care brokerage services.

2021/22 brought us new team members: Eduardo, Giuseppe, Aya, Koko, Georgia, and Jose. It was very sad to see Isabelle, Vivianne and Bharat leaving but we wish them all the very best in their future endeavours. We enjoyed having our wonderful and talented students on placements Sabina, Letitia, Muhammad, Laxmi and Eduardo, it was good to see they're all prepared for the next phase of their life. We wish you all the very best in your future endeavours. Never give up and never stop learning!

## SPOTLIGHT

- More than **700** people participated in **3,000** MACS activities
- The largest group are aged **80-84**
- **22** CALD seniors are aged over 90
  - **120** CALD seniors lived alone
- More than **90** couples receive MACS services
- **79%** MACS participants are females
- **31%** MACS participants are males

## HIGHLIGHT

Over the 2021/2022 period more than **12,000** hours of support were delivered by MACS! Including almost **9,000** hours of social support, both individual and groups, as well as **3,000** hours of support for centre-based and flexible respite.

## MULTICULTURAL SOCIAL SUPPORT SERVICES

In 2021/22 we focused on the mental health and wellbeing of our participants. Our unique support services model enabled us to continue delivering our services in a new set-up. More than 700 clients participated in almost 3000 MACS activities!

We recognise that seniors had unique needs and feeling connected was vitally specific during periods of compulsory isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, we discovered new activities to nurture hobbies and involvement of each client. We interacted online and over the phone sharing stories, recipes, tips and goals to stimulate their minds and encourage creativity and productivity at home whilst isolating. We ensured that not a single member of MSS services was left behind!



## ENCOMPASS PROGRAM

The EnCOMPASS Multicultural Aged Care Connector program is a national pilot program, providing navigational support to older people of CALD backgrounds and their communities. It has been funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health and auspiced by the Federation of Ethnic Community Councils of Australia (FECCA). ECSC is proud to be one of the local partners, covering the Eastern Sydney Region. The ENCOMPASS connectors have been providing specialised and targeted support to Arabic, Chinese, French, Greek, Indonesian, Italian, Malaysian, Russian speaking, Spanish speaking, Turkish, Vietnamese, and other communities. The ECSC EnCOMPASS program has been very successful, which has led to recognition by FECCA and participation in:

- At the National FECCA Conference in Melbourne in June 2022 where we presented on the valuable insights and lessons learnt from the EnCOMPASS Program.
- The Communities of Practice National Network making valuable contributions and insights, where issues and suggested strategies have been escalated to the Department.
- ECSC EnCOMPASS connectors have also played a role and added valuable feedback regarding the Aged Care Specialisation Verification program.

## SECTOR SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT MULTICULTURAL

Inner West Sydney and Eastern Sydney Sector Support and Development Multicultural (SSDM) is part of the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP). The main objective of SSDM is to support

CHSP service providers through reforms changes, in preparation for a new in-home aged care system, and to operate effectively in line with the objectives of the CHSP and within the context of the broader aged care system – with a focus on enhancing the capacity and competence of CHSP Service providers to be more responsive to the needs of older people from CALD backgrounds and their families. In 2021/22 ECSC's SSDMs continued to support local CHSP services and the sector at meetings, forums and interagencies (both state and national level) with reform updates and dissemination of useful information, training and support.

### INNER WEST

- Working together with Canterbury Bankstown Dementia Friendly Alliance in training Bicultural Workers to do Dementia information sessions in the community, for Arabic, Vietnamese and English communities and being part of the working group in establishing an Inner West Region Dementia Friendly Community Alliance.
- As a collaborative project, with the Inner West Elder Abuse Collaborative, a poster presentation based on a consultative project, Exploring CALD Communities Perceptions of Elder Abuse was chosen to be Part of the 7th National Elder Abuse Conference.
- IW SSDM was the CALD Expert speaker and an invited panel guest at the Elder Abuse Forum for Aged Care and Home Support Workers, organised by the City of Parramatta and at the IW Elder Abuse Collaborative event, Options Safety and Wellbeing for Seniors for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEEAD).

### EASTERN SYDNEY

- Contributing to an Elder Abuse Awareness Campaign with two short films for the Indonesian-speaking and Mandarin-speaking communities through work with the Eastern Sydney Elder Abuse Collaborative.
- Contributing to the Woollahra Dementia Alliance's creation of a series of short films entitled '*Breaking Down the Barriers*' and their '*Become-a-Dementia Friend*' events.
- Supporting a Multicultural Older Persons Roundtable in Eastern Sydney with PICAC (Partners in Culturally Appropriate Care) and MCCI (Multicultural Communities Council of Illawarra NSW and ACT).
- ES SSDM was the Multicultural Representative on the steering committee for an Elder Abuse Prevention Project with St Vincent's Hospital, NSW Women (Department of Communities and Justice) and Justice Connect; this included Multicultural Seniors focus group testing of a Power of Attorney resource.

### HIGHLIGHT

ECSC SSDM contributed to the organisation of the online, **National 'Let it Shine' CHSP Conference 2021**, supporting 400 delegates including CHSP services and aged care stakeholders across Australia. Over 85 guest speakers including senior Government Officials, The Hon. Senator Colbeck, the Commissioners for Ageing and Disability, Ageing Quality Safeguards and Anti-Discrimination, and several university and research academics, as well as industry bodies and CALD-specific peak bodies and organisations took part.



- Multicultural Support Services provided **12,185** hours of support, wellness checks, and encouragement to more than **700** most vulnerable members of our community and made a huge difference in their lives.
- More than **5000** bags with fresh food and vegies were delivered to seniors in Inner West and Eastern Sydney  
**200** boxes of culturally tailored hampers curated by Kylie Kwong specifically for our Thai, Vietnamese, Chinese and Korean communities in the City of Sydney.
- *The Knitting with Love* group provides the opportunity for **100** seniors to participate in an activity that will help keep them active and motivated.
- We received more than **278** enquiries about Aged Care services, MACS and EnCOMPASS Services.
- *“Feel Better with MACS through Art Therapy & Gardening”* program helped **300** seniors get in touch with their inner artist, reduce stress and anxiety, make new friends, connect with the world in an enriching way, improve your self-esteem and personal empowerment.
- MACS offer exciting online wellness program *“Feel Better with MACS”* and a wide range of recreational activities aimed to improve your physical and psychological health.



## CHALLENGES AND LOOKING AHEAD

The challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic world continued to affect our ability to engage with participants and made some activities difficult throughout the project and we were unable to always foresee this however the CHSP Emergency Support for COVID-19 allowed us to provide an extra 1600 hours of support. We hope in future we will not encounter another pandemic, but it has created the opportunity to think outside the box and become even more innovative and impactful, a challenge we readily accept. We emerge from the events of the past year stronger, more resilient, and even prouder of our achievements in 2021/22. Despite the drastic reform changes ahead in the Aged Care Sector with the introduction of a new In-Home Support Program, we look forward with enthusiasm to meeting the challenges in 2022/23 and supporting our CALD communities with all their aged care needs into the future.



## CULTURAL BRIDGES 2022

**"Thank you for a fantastic event...I came into the hall hunched over my walking stick and now I leave happy and walking tall and proud, I don't even need my walking stick right now!!"**

Our wonderful clients' comments and smiles said it all as they left Randwick Town Hall following our successful Cultural Bridges Concert. After many years apart, we could finally be together and celebrate our cultural heritage, warm up our bodies and souls with music, dance, laughter, and enjoy good times again. Over 200 MACS clients were able to reunite with their peers and make new friends from various multicultural backgrounds. They enjoyed cultural performances, a raffle, speeches from Randwick Mayor Dylan Parker and ECSC CEO Dina Petrakis, a wonderful lunch and took home plenty of info and goodies including beautiful handknitted scarves from our knitting group. They showcased a myriad of arts and crafts, traditional costumes, musical instruments, and dance routines – the highlight being the grand finale dance off with a sea of balloons, an unforgettable moment for all.

It may have been an event for CALD older persons but let us tell you, our older clients showed more energy and exuberance than many of the younger staff on the day. It just goes to show how important and valuable such social events are for our mental, physical, and emotional wellbeing. We cannot wait till our next Cultural Bridges Concert in 2023!

Many thanks to Randwick City Council for their ongoing financial support for this event and to all of you, our wonderful clients who made the event so special for all.

## PROJECTS

- "COVID-19 – Caring for CALD Community" program financed by Multicultural NSW and implemented by MACS Team provided vital support to 120 vulnerable and financially disadvantaged seniors from Arabic, Chinese, French, Greek, Italian, Indonesian, Malaysian, Nepalese, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Turkish and Vietnamese backgrounds residing in the Inner West and South Eastern Sydney providing them with culturally appropriate and individualised hampers.
- A consultation on "Understanding of how the issue of abuse and neglect of older people and adults with disability is experienced in CALD communities" was conducted with MACS clients in partnership with Cultural Perspectives engaged by the NSW Ageing and Disability Commission for this project.
- Another short project was consultations with the Vietnamese Community, exploring National Health literacy levels and exploring how to provide practical strategies to improve access to good quality information that helps all Australians manage and look after their health and wellbeing. This will also contribute to the development of the National Health Literacy Strategy. This was in partnership with FECCA and the SAX Institute.
- We collaborated with Justice Connect on a project to create a useful resource for older persons regarding 'Power of Attorney' and their rights and facilitated a Multicultural Older Persons Focus Group session to assist in the development of an Easy-to-Read guide that was launched and published as part of an ongoing campaign to combat Elder Abuse in the community.

## GRANTS

Our application to Randwick Council for 'Happy Ageing, CALD communities moving forward, by being empowered, prioritising mental health and wellbeing in daily life, living life with dignity by saying no to family/domestic violence' has been successful. That allowed us to maintain social connection and engagement of more than 700 seniors from CALD backgrounds with their peers and community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

*"On behalf of all seniors participating in this program I would like to take this opportunity to say a very special thank you to the entire team, at the Ethnic Community Services Co-op and Randwick Council. The value you bring to our lives goes well beyond the services you provide – it is evident in the care and kindness in your hearts and dedication to everyone who relies on your assistance. Our times together celebrate friendship and gives us a sense of community that was more important than ever during the unprecedented pandemic that the world has been facing. Thank you for your hard work to help bring us together safely in a warm and engaging place where we don't feel so isolated. So, a big thank you to the team and Randwick Council for supporting ECSC from the bottom of our hearts."*

*Jacqueline Jacinto*



## OUR STORIES

Tony has been receiving social support group services from ECSC for nearly 14 years. Due to chronic medical issues and traumatic previous experiences during the pandemic he requested and started receiving individual support services. When Marianna, his Italian speaking support worker called him for a regular wellness check, Tony T mentioned his elderly neighbour who was isolated and had no family in Sydney. He said when she saw Marianna delivering resources to him and doing wellness check with him, she became interested in receiving the same support. Marianna contacted Nancy and with her permission referred her to the EnCOMPASS Program. Nancy met with Georgia, EnCOMPASS Connector who informed and supported to Nancy to access MAC and CHSP services. Nancy who is currently receiving individual social support services, said she was feeling much better, she was enjoying individual support sessions and looking forward to join the social support group.



**"You learn something new every day"**

Necla, the Art Therapy & Gardening Project participant



# Multicultural Children's Services

The 2021/22 financial year presented the MCS team with renewed opportunities to promote inclusion of children from multicultural backgrounds in early years education. With the easing of COVID-19-related restrictions, we were able to increase the number of children we supported to access culturally inclusive early years education programs. We achieved this through our flagship Bicultural Support approach, our multilingual IDEA Pathway playgroup program as well as provision of training and resources to the early years education sector. Thanks to the dedication of our team of experienced educators, MCS was able to deliver positive impact for multicultural children, families and communities right across NSW, including metropolitan, regional and rural communities.

In May 2022 MCS welcomed its new manager, Sebastian Behrens. We would like to thank Kylie Ashley for her leadership of Multicultural Children's Services during a very challenging time. Her dedication to staff wellbeing and the communities we serve saw the MCS team emerge from the pandemic focused and re-energised.

## BICULTURAL SUPPORT

Bicultural Support places qualified, multi-lingual educators in early childhood education settings to aid the inclusion of children from multicultural backgrounds and to build the capacity of educators for culturally inclusive practice. Community preschools can access Bicultural Support through the Preschool Multicultural

Support Program, generously funded by the NSW Department of Education. Providers of long day care, family day care, vacation care and out of school hours care can access Bicultural Support through the Commonwealth-funded Inclusion Support Program.

## PRESCHOOL MULTICULTURAL SUPPORT PROGRAM

In December 2021 ECSC and the NSW Department of Education signed a 3-year funding partnership for the Preschool Multicultural Support Program. This program will deliver Bicultural Support, professional development webinars and a digital resource hub on culturally inclusive practice to community preschools across NSW. February 2022 saw the kick-off of service provision, which has resulted in a total of 120 hours of Bicultural Support allocated to 6 preschools thus far. We are thrilled







to work with children, families and educators in remote regions of NSW, where we provide both face to face and digital inclusion support options. The children and families supported through this program have come from a wide range of cultural and linguistic backgrounds, including Cantonese, Mandarin, Bahasa Indonesia, Japanese, Korean, Ukrainian, Russian, Thai, Tamil and Punjabi.

### INCLUSION SUPPORT PROGRAM (ISP)

In 2021/22, MCS continued to be a proud provider of inclusion support solutions for early childhood education services through the Commonwealth Department of Education's Inclusion Support Program (ISP). Working in close partnership with service leadership and educators, our team designed tailored inclusion support programs for 16 children from multicultural backgrounds, resulting in a total 643 hours of Bicultural Support delivered. The children's cultural and linguistic backgrounds included Russian, Mandarin, Malayalam, Vietnamese and Korean.



### IDEA PATHWAY PLAYGROUPS PROGRAM

The IDEA Pathway Program aims to support families from recent migrant and refugee backgrounds to make informed choices about their children's development and early years education. The program achieves this by running playgroups and parent workshops on play-based learning and child development in community languages. In 2021/22 the MCS team ran a total of 6 playgroups for families from Arabic, Mongolian, Afghani, Indonesian, Malaysian and multicultural backgrounds. The playgroups – held in Arncliffe, Canterbury, Regents Park, Punchbowl and Sefton – were attended by a total of 79 parents and children. Social isolation affects many recently migrated families, so the playgroups provide an ideal forum to connect with others as well as learn about children's development and associated services from peers and playgroup facilitators. Our dedicated team further supported families by making 2 referrals to external providers of early years intervention for autism support.



**"The Bicultural Support Program supported the service to achieve its goals to integrate the family and child and better understand the culture and their needs."**

Early Learning Centre/Long Day Care Service

**"The children enjoyed the different experiences and staff felt the opportunity enabled them to have a better perspective of cultural perspectives and their own awareness of how we can incorporate these into our practices."**

Out of Hours Service/OOSH

**"Lovely coordinators, amazing atmosphere and a great cohesive environment teaching kids about diversity, sharing and how to communicate."**

Parent participating in Farsi-language playgroup

**"Moving forward we hope to connect with our families to find different elements of their own cultures they would be proud of sharing with our service."**

Preschool and Childcare Centre/Preschool

**"Educators have more confidence in their cultural competence and ways of incorporating different languages and cultures into everyday programming."**

Early Learning Centre/Long Day Care Service

**"The children's parents commented on the positive improvements they were seeing in their children at arrival time, and said their children were talking at home about how great their days were, and how much they liked their Bicultural Support Worker."**

Early Learning Centre/Long Day Care Service

**"This program increased our trust."**

Parent participating in Dari-language playgroup







## HIGHLIGHT

In 2021, ECSC entered a 3-year funding partnership with the NSW Department of Education to deliver Bicultural Support, professional development webinars and a digital resource hub on culturally inclusive practice for early years educators across NSW.



## SECTOR DEVELOPMENT, RESOURCES AND TRAINING

During 2021/22, MCS contributed to sector development by providing resources and training to support culturally inclusive practice among early childhood educators. Some highlights include:

- Providing our ‘Survival Words’ resource to early childhood services – a book containing key words in 68 community languages alongside audio versions to support pronunciation and day to day use in early childhood settings.
- Securing grant funding to develop a new resource to support inclusion of children from multicultural backgrounds with additional learning support needs.
- Delivering anti-racism training to early childhood educators in partnership with Gosford Community Centre.
- Engaging in consultation on the Commonwealth Department of Education’s Inclusion Support Program.



### SPOTLIGHT 763 hours

of bicultural and bilingual inclusion support for children in early childhood education services, including support in Mandarin, Cantonese, Malayalam, Vietnamese, Korean, Bahasa Indonesia, Japanese, Korean, Ukrainian, Russian, Thai, Tamil and Punjabi.

## CHALLENGES AND LOOKING AHEAD

The acute shortage of early years educators across Australia impacts our ability to recruit qualified staff that can serve the inclusion support needs of our diverse communities. In spite of this challenge, the MCS team has excelled in delivering positive outcomes for children, families and educators through their expertise, flexibility and dedication to the principles of multiculturalism and social justice. I would like to sincerely thank Kylie Ashley, Nadia Faour, Divina Cergol and Semra Coban for all their hard work and support this year. We look forward to extending our impact in 2022/23.



# Multicultural Disability Services

## ETHNIC PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY PROGRAM (EPDP)

As government eligibility criteria changed, this program ended 30th of June 2022. To mitigate challenges, ECSC formed a partnership with Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association (MDAA) to ensure our clients had access to ongoing disability advocacy.

During 2021-2022 ECSC advocates supported 60 participants to access the NDIS, Disability Support Pension, My Aged Care, Centrelink, Housing, COVID payments and resources.

This incredible team conducted community education sessions on: Disability Awareness, Access to NDIS, COVID-19, Centrelink payments, Legal Aid & Higher Education, and the Disability Royal Commission.

ECSC also provided systemic advocacy through its role as convener of the Multicultural Disability Interagency, undertaking community consultations and providing group submissions for the Disability Royal Commission.



EPDP organised an information session for the local community facilitated by Your Story on the Disability Royal Commission and how to make a submission.



The Vietnamese Carer's Group enjoying their Christmas Party.

### HIGHLIGHT

Dermot ensured that ECSC advocates were involved in the NDIA CALD Strategy Consultation in Canberra in February 2022, providing the NDIA with real life examples of participant experiences in accessing and using the NDIS.

## NDIS SUPPORT COORDINATION

Eighty-five (85) participants from 12 different cultural and language groups across NSW and one from the Northern Territory received support for housing, accommodation, home modifications, and return to live in the community. Complementary capacity building in the areas of rights and responsibilities, navigating the NDIS portal, daily living skills, access to employment, and using technology which was particularly important during the COVID pandemic and lockdown periods.

The impact of COVID-19 caused multiple barriers for participants in receiving safe supports. Participants faced challenges using technology, accessing the internet as well as social isolation. Our excellent team provided support via phone and online platforms. Since January 2022 we have resumed face to face interactions assisted participants to reconnect to services.

### INSPIRATIONAL STORIES OF CHANGE

*Participant A* had received an NDIS plan but hadn't been using any services for 2 years due to cultural beliefs. The ECSC Support Coordinator facilitated and negotiated support services that respected



Participant settling in well to his new accommodation after long stay hospitalisation.

and aligned with the participant's cultural beliefs including regular physio, cleaning, and community access services.

*Participant B* was admitted to hospital for a long period of time due to poor mental health and was at risk of homelessness. The ECSC Support Coordinator worked with the hospital's multidisciplinary health team to register the participant on NDIS. The outcome was that the participant received adequate funding to reside in disability supported accommodation with 24-hour care.

### SPOTLIGHT

Our NDIS Support Coordination program has grown significantly in numbers and locations over the past year due to ECSC's reputation in the sector. We are constantly receiving referrals from LACs, word of mouth, community organisations and the NDIA, as our coordinators are experts in supporting participants from CALD background.

### HIGHLIGHT

Intensive support was provided for the most vulnerable participants including those at risk of homelessness, discharged from long stay hospitalisation and released from prison. ECSC bicultural support workers helped them achieve their goals and meet their needs.

## NDIS COMMUNITY ACCESS

ECSC provided support to more than 40 participants from 12 CALD backgrounds for community access (1:1 and groups), daily activities, capacity building and school holiday programs. Our 20 bilingual support workers received 3 training sessions over the past year to increase their capacity and skills to better support participants in the community.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown restrictions, our team provided support via phone and online platforms. However, from January 2022 ECSC resumed face-to-face provision for disability individual and group services. While we received positive feedback from participants and carers about our service delivery, we interviewed participants for their input on future activities and programs. Watch this space!



NDIS Dance Group performing their dance routine at the Inner West Multicultural Fest in June 2022.

### SPOTLIGHT

Our Community Access program has seen growth in the number of participants and service types over the past year. Many of our participants have been using our services for over 10 years with several having access this program for up to 20 years. This is a testament to the support they receive, the trust and rapport they build with our excellent bicultural staff.

### HIGHLIGHT

In April 2022, we established the ECSC NDIS Dance group which is a centre-based activity with 6 members. The ECSC Dance Group performed at the Inner West Multicultural Fest in June 2022 and are keenly looking for future dancing opportunities.





Our social group enjoying their trip to the Maritime Museum.

**"Dance group helps me to stay active and make new friends. We are ready for a new performance."**

Diana & Charlene Khoury

**"Talking to support workers and peers are the most eager things to do during outings."**

Soleiman El Sleiman

**"I cannot help to think about our past enjoyable moments. We have been together with so much happiness that can never be replaced."**

Antony Mo

## VOLUNTEER & GROW

Volunteer & Grow program supported 25 people with different abilities in the past year to find meaningful volunteer work as well as build capacity and pathways to employment. Four of our volunteers were successful in gaining paid employment over the past year.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the greatest challenge was finding volunteer work as many host organisations were not accepting volunteers. Our team were always available and on-call, as they engaged and supported volunteers online and via phone during those restrictive times.

Our current crop of volunteers participated in group volunteer work within ECSC's other programs such as Multicultural Aged Care, and with external partner organisations such as Addison Road Community Centre, Inner West Council, Little Big House Foundation, Newtown Neighbourhood, and Disability Services Australia. Volunteers were involved in a wide range of experiences including administrative work, event management, dog walking, tree planting, food packing, gardening, and photography.

### HIGHLIGHT

In June 2022, we welcomed, **Tinker**. Andrew's guide dog, to our team and she has settled into her role very well.



Tinker, Andrew's guide dog, joined our team and she loved attending our tree planting activity with all our volunteers.

### SPOTLIGHT

In May 2022, ECSC established group volunteer work experiences with our participants undertaking group volunteering 2-3 times per month. These activities take place with values driven local community organisations. Outcomes of this initiative have been social connectedness for the participants through friendship, belonging, and peer support.



Our monthly food packing work at Addi Road helping our local communities.





## HIGHLIGHT

One of the most successful volunteering experiences was the tree planting activity at the Addison Road Community Centre with Inner West Council. This project included the installation of a new rain garden to filter local stormwater and improve biodiversity. ECSC participants loved being part of this project, found it very rewarding, and are excited to watch this garden grow.

Tree planting activity at Addi Road's rain garden.



## COMMUNITIES COMING TOGETHER (CCT)

Our CCT program which supports new and emerging communities and parents of children living with disability, inducted and trained six multicultural facilitators from these communities to take on a leadership role in the delivery of these peer led support groups.

One of the main challenges was engaging new community groups and re-engaging current groups following the COVID-19 restrictions and extreme weather across NSW. Communities were reluctant to undertake face-to-face gatherings but were getting tired of online meetings and information sessions. Our bicultural workers diligently applied their skills, experience

and knowledge with communities to entice participants to return to group settings.

### INSPIRATIONAL STORIES OF CHANGE

A Nepalese participant recalled a time where a community member was struggling with his mental health due to a family situation in Nepal. The community came together, found him new accommodation, helped pay for both food and assisted with his plane ticket and journey back home to Nepal.

An Indian participant decided to work in the community sector solely from her experience of engaging with the ECSC CCT program. She said that CCT has assisted her build her confidence and skills to take this important next step.



Our Vietnamese Carer's group going out for lunch together.



Our Nepalese community participating in a wellness activity together in the park.

### SPOTLIGHT

Communities Coming Together Program facilitated 6 peer groups in North Sydney, South-Western Sydney, Inner West, Western Sydney, and South-Eastern Sydney. These groups included participants from Tibetan, Vietnamese, Indian, Nepalese communities as well as and people living with vision impairment.

### HIGHLIGHT

This financial year saw an exponential increase in face-to-face community events and the establishment of new peer led support groups. With the end of strict COVID-19 restrictions, five (5) new community groups engaged with ECSC participants numbers in these groups were very high in some instances reaching over 80 participants.

# Our Performance for the Year 2021-2022

In 2021-2022, Ethnic Community Services Co-operative (ECSC) delivered various services to children, people with disabilities and their carers and aged people from Culturally And Linguistically Diverse backgrounds through its various programs. We are committed to advance access and equity and social inclusion for all Australians.

Many challenges due to COVID during the past year put all staff under enormous pressure to meet the needs for the communities. The wellbeing of our participants has been the primary focus of our work during COVID. Despite many challenges, we managed to achieve our overall goals quite successfully and this has been possible for an excellent team effort and staff members' ongoing commitment to inclusion and social justice.

## RESULTS

The net surplus (deficit) from operations is (\$117,240). ECSC is a non-profit organisation and no income tax is applicable.

## DIVIDENDS

No amount has been paid or declared by way of a dividend during the year.

## SERVICE DELIVERY

ECSC continued providing services during the past year with many challenges and disruptions caused by COVID-19 to our service delivery plan. All our programs' participants were affected by the lockdown, however, we managed to continue providing services quite successfully with innovation

and commitment. We complied with all restrictions put in place by various government departments and developed, updated policies and procedures accordingly.

ECSC will continue to operate and pursue its goals with the changes that may occur in the coming year due to uncertainty of the virus and other policy reforms.

## DIRECTORS' BENEFITS

No director since the beginning of the year has received or become entitled to receive a benefit by reason of a contract made by ECSC, or with a related corporation or with a firm of which the director is member, or in which the Director has a substantial financial interest other than a fixed salary as a full-time employee of ECSC.

Made and signed in accordance with a resolution of the directors.

Sydney, 5 October 2022

**Chief Executive Officer: Dina Petrakis**

Signature:



**Director (Chairperson): Jane Brock**

Signature:





# Statement for the Year Ended 30 June 2022

## DIRECTORS' DECLARATION

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we declare that the attached financial statements comprise a general purpose financial report; and

- (a) The statement of financial position (balance sheet) and the statement of comprehensive income (financial performance), changes in equity, and cash flows, and the accompanying notes give a true and fair view of the position of the Co-operative as at 30 June 2022 and of the result for the year to that date; and
- (b) There are reasonable grounds, for Directors to believe, that the Co-operative remains solvent and will continue to be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due; and
- (c) In the opinion of the directors of the Co-operative, the financial statements and notes meet their reporting obligations under the Co-operatives National Law and Regulations and Divisions 55 and 60 of the

Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act, which require compliance with accounting standards and regulations, and to disclose a true and fair view.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors and is signed for and on behalf of directors by:

Sydney, 5 October 2022

**Chief Executive Officer: Dina Petrakis**

Signature:



**Director (Chairperson): Jane Brock**

Signature:



# Statement of Financial Performance and Other Comprehensive Income

for the Year Ending 30 June 2022

	NOTE	2022 \$	2021 \$
Revenue from ordinary activities	2	2,894,068	3,627,736
Expenses from ordinary activities	3	3,011,308	3,068,036
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		(117,240)	559,700
Retained surplus at beginning of year		1,993,925	1,434,225
<b>Retained surplus at end of year</b>		<b>1,876,685</b>	<b>1,993,925</b>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

# Statement of Change in Members' Equity

for the Year Ending 30 June 2022

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Retained surplus at beginning of year	1,993,925	1,434,225
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	(117,240)	559,700
<b>Retained surplus at end of year</b>	<b>1,876,685</b>	<b>1,993,925</b>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

# Statement of Financial Position

as at 30 June 2022

	NOTE	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash and term deposits		2,661,604	2,694,699
Sundry debtors and prepayment	4	81,606	117,372
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>2,743,210</b>	<b>2,812,071</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Investments	5	10	10
Office equipment, furniture and motor vehicle	6	87,555	108,676
Leasehold building	6	343,074	354,499
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<b>430,639</b>	<b>463,185</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>3,173,849</b>	<b>3,275,256</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Creditors and borrowings	7	785,165	745,785
Provisions	8	511,999	535,546
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>1,297,164</b>	<b>1,281,331</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>1,297,164</b>	<b>1,281,331</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>1,876,685</b>	<b>1,993,925</b>
<b>Members' Equity</b>			
Retained surplus	9	1,876,685	1,993,925
<b>Total Members' Equity</b>		<b>1,876,685</b>	<b>1,993,925</b>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.



# Statement of Cash Flows

for the Year Ending 30 June 2022

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for year	(117,240)	559,700
Add back non-cash charges		
- Depreciation and amortisation	35,478	31,616
- Provision for employee entitlements	(23,547)	87,037
- Provision for doubtful debts	-	1,225
	11,931	679,578
(Increase)/Decrease in		
- Sundry debtors and prepayments	(8,656)	(23,905)
Increase/(Decrease) in		
- Creditors and borrowings	83,802	106,881
Cash flow from operations	87,077	762,554
Cash flows for investment		
- Toyota bus	-	(57,504)
- Computer software	(1,000)	(20,000)
- Office equipment	(1,932)	(21,142)
	(2,932)	(98,646)
Increase/(Decrease) in cash flow for year	84,145	663,908
<b>Cash at beginning of year</b>	<b>2,694,699</b>	<b>2,030,791</b>
<b>Cash at end of year</b>	<b>2,661,604</b>	<b>2,694,699</b>

# Notes to the Financial Statements

## for the Year Ending 30 June 2022

The Ethnic Community Services Co-operative (ECSC) was registered in 1979 under the NSW Co-operatives Act, with its accounting and disclosure obligations defined by the corporations' legislation applying at the time. In 2012 the Commonwealth Government established a new regulator, the Australian Charities and Not For Profit Commission (ACNC) to oversee charitable and benevolent organisations such as ECSC which is required to adopt rigorous disclosure regime than the so-called "special purpose" financial reports previously produced for members and filing with the new regulator.

These reports are described as "general purpose" financial reports and have to comply with the full suite of accounting standards in force; but in recognising the demands made on smaller organisations, the accounting standards authority the Australian Accounting Standards Board provides a tier approach, whereby those with revenue below \$1 million (excluding government grants) may prepare reports with "reduced disclosure" requirements.

The report which follows has been produced on this basis. ECSC is a Not For Profit services organisation whose members have limited liability. Any surplus earned must be retained to further its aims; and in the event of it being wound up, the excess remaining after meeting its liabilities is to be distributed to another charitable organisation and not to members.

Members are not liable for any losses incurred by ECSC, but are liable for any unpaid membership subscriptions.

### Note 1. Accounting Policies and Methodology

The revenue of ECSC is derived principally from grants received from State and Federal government departments concerned with promoting similar objectives to those of ECSC, but with an emphasis on CALD communities. Grants are obtained after formal agreements are entered into setting out the conditions of the funding and the obligations of ECSC as the service provider. Grants are usually received by instalments which may extend beyond twelve months and are progressively reported as income during the life of the program.

The matching of grant income and expenditure is achieved by allocating staff time in, performance of the program and the payments to third party goods and service providers.

Regular assessments are made of actual performance with budgeted performance targets; performance review and acquittal of the grants received are usually required at periodic intervals by the funding bodies. Discipline in carrying out the programs is enforced by the obligation to meet cost over runs from the ECSC's own resources.

Following the establishment of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), by the Commonwealth Government, ECSC has adapted to a client service, model whereby CALD clients choose their preferred service provider via an intermediary or NDIS approved agent.

The financial statements, which follow, are based on historical costs and do not take into account changing money values or current valuations of non-current assets. Whilst grant income is reported



# Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ending 30 June 2022

on a cash receipt basis, other income and expenses are accounted for by accruals where necessary.

## Leasehold Property and Leasehold Commitment

The ECSC's building at 3 Addison Road Centre was constructed in the 2003 financial year at a cost of \$434,700. This was accounted for as leasehold improvements, since the ECSC has no title to the property which is owned by the NSW State Government.

ECSC was given a 42 years lease from Addison Road Centre, (the head lessee), which has 31 years remaining to expiry on 31 December 2053. The cost of the original leasehold improvements with subsequent additions are being amortised over the unexpired term of the lease.

ECSC pays an annual rent of \$29,545 in monthly instalments subject to annual CPI adjustments and rent review every 5 years.

## Directors Attendance at Board Meetings During the Year

A total of 7 board meetings were held and directors attending physically or by video conference call were:

• Rosanna Barbero	7/7
• Jane Brock	7/7
• Shikha Chowdhary	7/7
• Samantha Damoulakis	6/7
• Vivi Koutsounadis	2/7
• Dina Petrakis	3/3
• Manal Zahra	6/7
• Yusra Metwally	2/7

	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>Note 2. Revenues from Ordinary Activities</b>		
Grant income	2,070,731	2,294,921
NDIS income	630,195	703,990
NDIS income accrued	6,957	-
Interest income	866	9,737
Jobkeeper payments	-	390,000
Cash boost (ATO)	-	50,000
Other income	185,319	165,518
Paid Parental leave	-	13,570
	<b>2,894,068</b>	<b>3,627,736</b>

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ending 30 June 2022

	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>Note 3. Expenses from Ordinary Activities</b>		
Advertising and publicity	3,895	3,984
Amortisation of leasehold building	11,425	12,797
Audit fees	7,000	6,773
Bad debts	-	1,225
Bank fees	402	545
Computer costs	26,202	11,179
Conferences and meetings	7,299	1,545
Consultancy	41,713	22,523
Depreciation	24,053	18,819
In-service training	4,531	14,171
Insurance	55,128	60,173
Membership and subscriptions	27,654	7,759
Motor vehicle and travel	31,098	46,446
Occupancy	55,246	55,573
Paid Parental leave	-	13,570
Postage	2,473	3,950
Printing and photocopying	19,131	16,883
Programme costs	72,058	50,924
Reference materials and resources	13,919	7,565
Repairs and maintenance	10,466	8,792
Salaries and superannuation	2,246,484	2,218,070
Staff amenities and sundries	13,558	12,963
Stationery and supplies	2,425	3,468
Telephone and internet	24,891	18,557
Translations	6,098	851
Wages and superannuation - workers	304,159	448,931
	<b>3,011,308</b>	<b>3,068,036</b>

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ending 30 June 2022

	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>Note 4. Sundry Debtors and Prepayments</b>		
Accounts receivable	133,622	122,341
Less: provision for doubtful debts	(52,629)	(52,629)
	<b>80,993</b>	<b>69,712</b>
Grants receivable	-	44,422
Prepayment	-	2,273
Other debtors	613	966
	<b>81,606</b>	<b>117,372</b>
<b>Note 5. Investment</b>		
Shares in Co-operative Society	10	10
<b>Note 6. Office Equipment, Furniture and Motor Vehicle</b>		
Office equipment and furniture, at cost	287,207	284,275
Motor vehicle, at cost	82,622	82,622
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(282,274)	(258,221)
	<b>87,555</b>	<b>108,676</b>
Leasehold building, at cost	533,487	533,487
Less: Accumulated amortisation	(190,413)	(178,988)
	<b>343,074</b>	<b>354,499</b>
	<b>430,629</b>	<b>463,175</b>
<b>Note 7. Creditors and Borrowings</b>		
Accrued expenses	23,281	58,968
Grants received in advance	548,464	451,668
Sundry creditors	213,420	235,149
	<b>785,165</b>	<b>745,785</b>



## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ending 30 June 2022

	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>Note 8. Provisions</b>		
Annual leave	281,027	330,424
Long service leave	230,972	205,122
	<b>511,999</b>	<b>535,546</b>
<b>Note 9. Retained Surplus</b>		
Accumulated balance b/d	106,482	106,482
Project related – b/d	768,718	506,305
- current year	115,269	262,413
Unfunded – b/d	1,118,725	821,438
- current year	(232,509)	297,287
	<b>1,876,685</b>	<b>1,993,925</b>
<b>Note 10. Auditor's Remuneration</b>		
Remuneration of the auditor of ECSC		
- Audit fees	7,000	6,773
- Other services	-	-

The current auditor Mr E. T. Conrick, Chartered Accountant, has provided a declaration of his independence to the Board of Directors. He will not seek reappointment at this year's AGM.

*Edward T. Conrick*

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT  
P.O. BOX 1329, BONDI JUNCTION 2022  
TEL/FAX: 02 9369 5718

# Auditor's Report

## to the Members of the Ethnic Community Services Co-operative Ltd

I have audited the attached general purpose financial report for the year ended 30 June 2022 of The Ethnic Community Services Co-operative Ltd (ECSC). The directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial report and the information it contains. I have conducted an independent audit of the financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members of the ECSC. My audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial report is free of material misstatement.

My procedures included examination on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements, so as to present a view which is consistent with my understanding of the co-operative's financial position and the result of its operation and its cash flows.

The audit opinion expressed hereunder has been formed on the above basis.

### AUDIT OPINION

In my opinion, the financial report of The Ethnic Community Services Co-operative Ltd is in accordance with:

- (a) the Co-operatives National Law and Regulations and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 including:
  - (i) giving a true and fair view of the Co-operative's financial position as at 30 June 2022 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
  - (ii) complying with relevant Accounting Standards and Regulations; and
- (b) other mandatory financial reporting requirements.



**E.T. Conrick**  
Chartered Accountant

5 October 2022

Bondi Junction

*Edward T. Conrick*

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT  
 P.O. BOX 1329, BONDI JUNCTION 2022  
 TEL/FAX: 02 9369 5718

# Auditor's Independence Declaration

## to the Members of the Ethnic Community Services Co-operative Ltd

I declare that to the best of my knowledge during the year ended 30 June 2022 there have been:

- (1) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Corporations Act 2001 and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 in relation to the audit;
- (2) and no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.



**E.T. Conrick**  
 Chartered Accountant  
 Registered Company Auditor (4243)

5 October 2022







**Ethnic Community  
Services Co-operative**  
*A voice for diversity and inclusion*

Ethnic Community Services Co-operative  
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