



Preventing Homelessness in Older Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Communities Project 2015

Friday 17, 2015

ECCV partners with HAAG to prevent homelessness in older CALD communities

The Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria (ECCV) - in partnership with Housing for the Aged Action Group (HAAG) - is due to launch a major project aimed at preventing homelessness in older Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities.

The project will be launched by the Victorian Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Robin Scott, on Wednesday 22 April.

ECCV chairperson, Eddie Micallef, said the issue of homelessness in older Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities, was an ongoing and increasingly important issue, especially as Australia has in general and ageing population, which is also reflected in many CALD communities.

"Insecure housing and risk of homelessness is an issue that has been examined by the Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria," Mr Micallef said.

"A joint approach by ECCV and HAAG will enable ethnic and multicultural communities to better engage with housing services to receive information in their language and with consideration of cultural values."

Jeff Fiedler, Manager of Education and Housing Advice at HAAG, said people from CALD backgrounds often faced additional challenges in terms of potential homelessness.

"They may find it difficult to access information about housing rights and options in their own language. Making sure that culturally diverse communities have access to independent information, advice and advocacy is crucial to ensuring the most vulnerable older people are assisted," Mr Fiedler said.

"While 34 per cent of HAAG clients are from a CALD background, it is of concern that some cultural groups with high proportions of older renters are under-utilising our service.



“HAAG has identified the need to directly reach out to older people from CALD backgrounds. The project will ensure that older people from CALD backgrounds have access to housing services – which will reduce housing crisis and homelessness.”

The 12 month project - funded by the Lord Mayor’s Charitable Foundation - will target people over the age of 55 from CALD communities throughout Victoria.

The most recent Australian Bureau of Statistics (2011) figures indicate that there were more than 19,934 people from non-English speaking backgrounds who were over 55 and renting in Victoria.

HAAG focuses on older renters, as private rental housing is highly insecure and unaffordable for older people on aged pensions. In addition, rental housing can be unsuitable for older people with age-related disabilities, as necessary modifications are often rejected by landlords.

Launch - *Preventing Homelessness in Older CALD Communities*

When: Wednesday April 22, 10.30am
Where: Purple Room at the Multicultural Hub
506 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne.

For further information contact Gemma White, Project Officer, HAAG, on 9654 7389 or 0424 259 009

For interview opportunities contact ECCV chairman Eddie Micallef on 0413 127 422.

For further information contact ECCV Media Advisor John Watts on 0400 195 480 or jwatts@eccv.org.au



The Ethnic Communities’ Council of Victoria Inc. (ECCV) is the *Voice of Multicultural Victoria*. As the peak body for ethnic and multicultural organisations in Victoria, we are proud to have been the key advocate for culturally diverse communities in Victoria since 1974. For 40 years we have been the link between multicultural communities, government and the wider community. www.eccv.org.au