



**Ethnic Communities  
Council of Queensland**

## **Community Development**

### **PEOPLE WORKING TOGETHER**

#### **What is the role of Community Development at ECCQ?**

The Community Development Worker at ECCQ works with and for people from new and emerging communities to help communities and individuals identify, speak about and resolve their issues, whilst also promoting their culture.

The Community Development Program is funded by Multicultural Affairs Queensland, within the Community Engagement Division, under the terms and conditions of the Multicultural Assistance Program.

#### **Who is 'officially' classified to be from a New and Emerging Community?**

*New and Emerging Communities* are migrants and refugees who don't yet have established community infrastructure and who are growing in community size.

But such categorization may not enable a person, government or community to gain a full understanding of a specific culture, history or lifestyle.

At ECCQ we believe that the term 'new and emerging' means more than that: recently arrived migrants and refugees without established community support as well as migrant communities with an established history in Australia that are now growing, but lack recognition and support by governments and the broader community.

#### **Some examples of ECCQ's achievements in Community Development**

On request from various communities:

- ECCQ facilitated the development of a **collective advocacy group** for and by new and emerging communities
- A Sudanese Youth Association received State funding, following the

support of ECCQ, to organise a **youth presentation** to showcase their culture, issues and needs to the wider community

- Two Somali men were supported by ECCQ to attend a **National Youth Conference in Perth** . They spoke about their issues and needs as young refugees living in Australia
- ECCQ conducted **Advocacy Workshops** to introduce people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities to their Local, State and Federal Government representatives to enable them to learn **how to get their issues heard**;
- ECCQ conducted a **tour of Queensland's Parliament House** to learn how legislation is formed and approved in the Parliamentary Chambers.

### **What can we do together with you?**

The types of advocacy-based community activities and programs that the Community Development Worker supports with individuals and communities include, on request:

- Supporting groups in events and activities determined by the people who request such support
- Story-sharing with individuals and communities to learn more about each other
- Cultural awareness training
- Support in finding and applying for funds; ECCQ can also be an auspicing body
- Education and advocacy of specific issues, like Temporary Protection Visas (TPVs)
- Support in the formation of your organization, such as whether to be incorporated, how to go about it, how to form a committee, how to run a committee
- Support for your particular need, like advocating to a Federal representative about a sponsorship application you've submitted
- Workshops that teach you advocacy skills to use in Australia
- Introductions to your Local, State and Federal Government representatives.



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## **Multicultural Advocacy**

### **What is the role of the Multicultural Advocate at ECCQ?**

The Multicultural Advocate works with and for people from established and new migrant and refugee communities and the organisations that support them.

The goal is to increase the responsiveness of government systems, or other systems or services, to the needs of ethnic communities. It is a statewide position, meaning that the issues the worker will tackle are those that affect ethnic communities throughout the State.

The method of work is systems advocacy.

### **What is systems advocacy?**

Systems advocacy is the process of working to achieve positive changes with and for a group of people - in this case, migrants and refugees. It is about doing a range of things to influence governments, both politicians and bureaucrats, to improve policies, legislation, practices, resource allocation, and attitudes.

Systems advocacy strategies include:

- Supporting ethnic communities and organisations to advocate for improvements through information sharing, forums and meetings. Preparing user-friendly documents that enable members of ethnic communities to contribute their views in complex policy areas.
- Forming networks, coalitions or partnerships with ethnic communities and organisations to reap the benefits of collective action - more ideas, more energy, more impact.
- Identifying the needs of migrants and refugees through consultation, research, informal discussion, focus groups, and drawing on existing reports.
- Documenting not just needs but solutions and recommendations. Reports provide a basis for lobbying and publicity and give advocates credibility.
- Lobbying key people within government and bureaucracies; calling on them to act.
- Participating on government committees, without being co-opted.

- Raising issues in the media when this will increase the chance of the issue being addressed.

ECCQ's Advocacy Program is funded by Multicultural Affairs Queensland, within the Community Engagement Division of the Department of Premier and Cabinet.



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## **The Women's Ethnic Network** ***working with and for immigrant & refugee women***

Why does the Women's Ethnic Network, or WEN, exist?

Migrant and refugee women come from and represent many cultural and language backgrounds and circumstances which can result in economic, political and social barriers.

Whilst the needs of these women should be integrated into overall women's policies strategies, specific targeted initiatives including culturally-appropriate policies, programs and services are needed to address their particular circumstances.

The Women's Ethnic Network within ECCQ works towards integrating the issues and concerns of migrant and refugee women into overall community policies, projects and initiatives, especially when they have Statewide relevance.

WEN is an issues and policies forum for migrant and refugee women in Queensland.

An Honorary Convenor, always a member of ECCQ's Executive Committee, provides strategic leadership for WEN. Administrative support is provided by ECCQ.

### **What are the goals of WEN?**

- To provide a forum for migrant and refugee women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds (CALD), to identify and discuss issues relevant to them in Queensland.
- To organise activities and facilitate opportunities which respond to and highlight the needs, rights and contributions of CALD women in Queensland.
- To encourage CALD women's participation in decision-making processes which affect their lives in accordance with social justice and access and equity.
- To network and cooperate with other groups which seek to improve the status of all women in Queensland.
- To advocate, through ECCQ, on women's issues at all levels of government and non-government sectors in areas of policy and service delivery.

The active involvement and participation of migrant and refugee women in planned activities helps ensure these goals are met. Outcomes from these activities have significantly contributed in informing social, political and economic processes in the government and non-government sectors on women's issues.