



**We belong here but...
a Victorian ethnic communities
perspective on social cohesion**

Dr Irene Bouzo PhD
Executive Officer
Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria
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The Voice of Multicultural Victoria

Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria

About ECCV

- A peak advocacy organisation
- The voice of multicultural Victoria
- Independent policy advice to government
- Over 200 members

2015-20 Strategic Plan

1. Community
consultation

2. Policy
advocacy

3. Capacity
building

4. Media
advocacy



The Voice of Multicultural Victoria

Outline

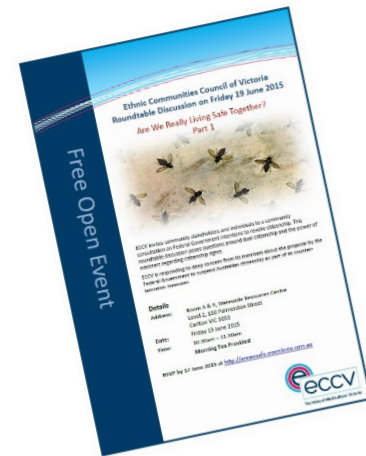
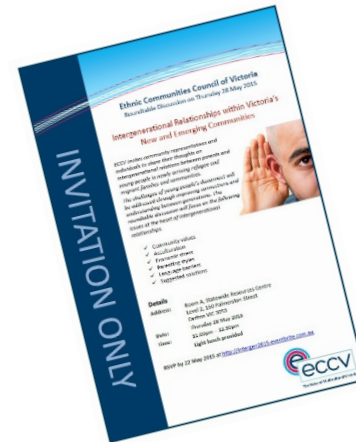
1. Our consultation methodology
2. Older generation perspective
3. Younger gen perspective
4. Resources

Quick response Social Cohesion Policy Briefs

- Frequent, short community consultations
- Snapshot of voices on the ground
- Key points and future directions

Roundtable discussions on:

- Intergenerational relationships
- Citizenship revocation
- Community resilience grants
- Overseas remittance payments
- Muslim mothers



Methodology: our roundtable discussion on intergenerational relationship

- Multicultural service providers
- Faith and ethnic groups representatives
- young people in their 20s onwards
- People from Middle East and Horn of Africa
- Some one-to-one sessions



Gen one: When we get the that overseas phone call...

Key points

- Overseas remittances - shame and stigma
- Collectivist thinking - local and overseas community life
- Economic stress - bills 'n fines accumulate

Future directions

- Programs that recognise the transnational living in NEC families
- Bilingual financial literacy programs



Gen two: We belong here but why can't we play sport?

Key points

- Overseas remittance vs sporting fees and costs
- No space for soccer
- Family tension – no-one listens

Future directions

- Local council programs for sporting ground access
- School parenting cultural awareness programs

Gen One: We belong here but...it's not turning out the way we expected

Key points

- Cultural parenting vs abuse
- Fear of losing the language and culture
- “We fear for our children when they go out”

Future directions

- Culturally responsive parenting rights programs
- Mapping programs that work



Gen Two: Where can we feel safe?

Key points

- Bullied at school
- Gathering in public places
- Police replace parents
- Drugs, crime, mortality
- Return home option

Future directions

- NECs family retreats
- Support for education and jobs pathways
- Safe space for positive identity formation
- Community engagement not surveillance



Resources

ECCV/Deakin University joint research

- *Intergenerational relations in new arrival communities in Victoria, The Centre for Citizenship and Globalisation, A Deakin University Strategic Research Centre*

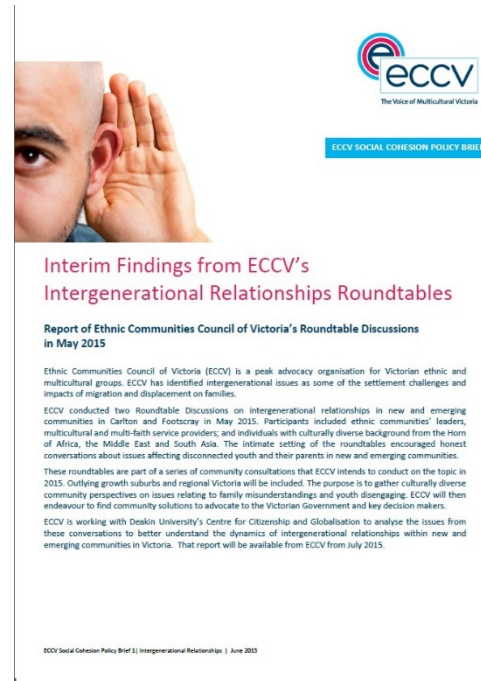
Recommended community projects

- Parenting in a New Culture at Spectrum MRC Preston, Victoria
<http://spectrumvic.org.au/family-services/parenting-new-culture/>
- Youth training for school leavers/under-achievers at Diversitat, Geelong, Victoria
<https://training.diversitat.org.au/training-courses/youth/index.cfm>

Chapter on identity formation

- Bouzo, Irene 2015 *Adaptation after Displacement* in Hopeful Places - migration and belonging in an unpredictable era, Ed Chris McConville, Connor Court Publishing

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ECCV lens on social cohesion

Global lessons

- Start with matters of local concern
- More social and community measures
- Less focus on military and policing measures

Local feedback

- Start with intergenerational relationships
- Youth, family and community cohesion





Thank you

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