

# Annual Report 2018-2019



Albury-Wodonga Ethnic Communities Council acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional custodians of the land where we live, work and study. We recognise that this land and the sovereignty of First Nations were never ceded. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and future for they hold the memories, traditions, culture, and hopes of Aboriginal Australia. We commit to walking alongside Australia's First Nations Peoples in a spirit of harmony, respect, and cooperation towards genuine reconciliation and justice.

## Welcome

We present the Albury-Wodonga Ethnic Communities Council Inc. 2018-2019 Annual Report. Since our recent beginnings in late 2014, AWECC has been working hard to set in place a strong foundation and establish ourselves as the peak body for ethnic and multicultural communities on the Border. As a member-driven and community-focused organisation, our purpose is to advocate on behalf of local ethnic and multicultural communities, improve service delivery outcomes, promote solidarity and unity amongst ethnic community groups, and celebrate cultural diversity.

## Statement of Purposes

The Statement of Purposes of AWECC are drawn from Clause 2 of its Constitution and Rules (as amended 2018).

The Statement of Purposes of the Association is as follows:

2.1 The Albury-Wodonga Ethnic Communities Council is a member-driven community organisation, committed to empowering people from diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds. The organisation focuses on advocating for local ethnic communities, improving access and equity, and promoting respect and community harmony.

2.2 The key objectives of the Association are as follows:

- a. To act as the advocacy and representative body in Albury-Wodonga for multicultural and ethnic communities in the formulation of, at all levels of government, policies, practices and funding opportunities that will contribute to both, equitable human-rights based outcomes and alleviation of social disadvantage and injustice for this cohort of peoples.
- b. To encourage the full participation of Albury-Wodonga multicultural and ethnic communities within the social, economic, political and cultural life of Australia.
- c. To promote awareness of the presence and needs of emerging communities and refugees amongst service providers and various levels of government.
- d. To identify and address service delivery gaps in culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) service provision.
- e. To assist with the advancement of community language education and support of related educational facilities for ethnic and refugee groups.
- f. To advocate, plan for and assist with the relief of the needs of refugees and migrants at all stages of life.

- g. To promote the positive aspects of multiculturalism and cultural diversity to the local community and throughout Victoria, New South Wales and Australia generally.
- h. To facilitate and deliver such services as may be necessary to achieve any of the foregoing objectives.

## **What We Do**

The core business of AWECC is advocacy. Working alongside our members to enhance inclusion, access and social cohesion, AWECC is committed to promoting the successes of multiculturalism, and ensuring equitable, human rights-based outcomes for all, regardless of their background.

In order to identify and address specific community needs, AWECC and its partners deliver various advocacy and community capacity-building programs, events and forums aimed at addressing identified issues. These issues may include: barriers to accessing information and services; poor health literacy; discrimination and racism; employment and workplace rights; lack of skills recognition; mental illness and trauma; family violence and abuse in relationships.

## **Our History**

In response to consultations in 2012 with local Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities, an interim committee was convened with the support of both Albury City and Wodonga Council, and work on establishing an ethnic communities council began. The project was strongly supported and guided by the Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria.

In 2013, the Wodonga Council successfully secured funding through the Peak Multicultural Organisations Grants Program from the Victorian Government's Department of Premier and Cabinet's office of Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship, to help with the establishment of an Incorporated Association and a project worker to support the association for two years.

In late 2014, the Albury-Wodonga Ethnic Communities Council Inc. was established, and its first Board of Management was elected.

## **Our Future**

AWECC dreams of an Albury-Wodonga that has equitable access and opportunities for local ethnic and migrant populations, and a place where these communities operate and flourish in a spirit of unity and harmony, with the wider community.

## **Member Organisations**

Albury Wodonga Aus-Bangla Community  
Albury Wodonga Indian Australian Association  
Albury Wodonga Hindu Vaidic Sewa Samiti  
Bhutanese Association in Albury

Bhutanese Australian Community Support Group Albury-Wodonga  
 Filipino-Australian Community of Albury Wodonga  
 German-Austrian Australian Club (Wodonga)  
 Albury Wodonga Sikh Organisation  
 African Union Albury Wodonga  
 Wodonga Bhutanese Community  
 Border Kiwis Cultural Support Group  
 Gateway Health



### Board of Directors 2018-2019

Chairperson	Rupinder Kaur
Deputy Chairperson	Nivanka De Silva
Secretary/Treasurer	Mariam Abbas
Directors	Pahal Man Bhattarai
	Pampha Bhujel
	Donna Mlejnek
	Marcel Ozine Bentana
	Shaun McFarlane (until January 2019)
	Mohammed Alamgir (until April 2019)

### Staff

Community Advocacy Officer	Brett Sanderson
Community Advocacy Officer	Jodie Farrugia
Community Advocacy Officer	Joseph Lumanog
Multicultural Support Worker	Bhakti Dhamala
Multicultural Support Worker	Grace Uwase
Multicultural Support Worker	Christian Bashimbe
Multimedia Worker	Olivier Ruzoviyo

### Partners

Gateway Health  
 City of Wodonga  
 AlburyCity  
 Rural City of Wangaratta  
 Upper Hume Primary Care Partnership

Murray Valley Sanctuary Refugee Group  
 Gambler's Help  
 North East Multicultural Association  
 Welcoming Australia  
 Junction Support Services  
 North East Border Trades and Labour Council  
 Migrant Workers Centre  
 Albury Wodonga Volunteer Resource Bureau



## Funders and Sponsors



Premier and Cabinet



Health and Human Services



## Highlights of Impact and Accomplishments



Photo credit: Border Mail

### Advocacy

- Grassroots campaign initiated with key partners in the refugee rights community to legislate the Medical Evacuation Bill
- Media campaign for women's rights organised to raise awareness of domestic violence and promote women's empowerment
- Human rights education session provided to students in collaboration with universities and regional high schools
- Workers' rights policy input submitted to various decision makers, advocacy groups, and service providers
- Successive media appearances facilitated to increase public profile of multicultural community
- Consultations with major institutions held to resolve problems with international police checks for multicultural jobseekers
- Solidarity messages sent to support human rights defenders in the Philippines
- Climate action campaigns endorsed and supported with public statements translated to Arabic, Hindi, Mandarin, Nepali, Punjabi, Sinhala, and Tagalog
- Technical input submitted to national and state campaigns to establish Australian Charter of Human Rights
- AWECC Chairperson Rupinder Kaur recognised as 2019 Wodonga Citizen of the Year for her work in preventing family violence



## Culture

- Major African cultural event organised to highlight and welcome various communities and talents
- Support provided to various local cultural and literary events and gatherings for Bhutanese, Indian, Filipino, and African communities
- Strategic collaboration with Aboriginal community established for culture sharing, education, and harm reduction programs
- Consultations held on establishment of local Filipino language school
- Major publicity campaign organised to highlight and celebrate Bhutanese culture and senior citizens
- Support and promotion provided to multicultural food businesses specialising in various ethnic cuisine
- Consultations and study undertaken for interfaith projects involving Christian, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, and Sikh communities
- Support and promotion facilitated for emerging local talent in arts and media
- Community leaders' participation in radio and television broadcasts encouraged, in addition to print media
- Translation and cultural knowledge delivered to service providers for various community forums and networks



### **Capacity Building**

- Governance training provided to at least 20 community members from various ethnic groups
- Research and training program designed for workers' rights training for workers from refugee and migrant backgrounds
- Taxation information session delivered for at least 50 community members from various ethnic backgrounds
- Information and peer support facilitated for multicultural women's rights
- Translation support and cultural advice supplied for various service providers in health, settlement, education, and housing
- Participation organised for African and Bhutanese emerging youth leaders
- Consultations and research undertaken to develop a multicultural men's wellbeing program
- Capacity resources and needs assessments in progress for member community organisations and partners

### **Organisation**

- More community member organisations, associate members, individual members, and program partners
- Historically highest and most complex mix of projects, contracts, and initiatives
- Heightened public interest and support, including engagement on social media platforms
- Expanded pool of human resources for advocacy, project delivery, multicultural support, research, and media work
- Consultations in progress with experts from local universities to enhance capacity for research and evaluation



## Chairperson's Report

I would like to begin by acknowledging the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet today. I would also like to pay my respects to Elders past and present. It is my pleasure to welcome you all on behalf of Albury Wodonga Ethnic Communities and present our 2018-2019 Annual Report.

This is a proud moment for AWECC as it holds strong name as a key organisation in the region that continuously strives to do its best for advocating for the rights of all communities from various ethnicities.

AWECC's continuous growth speaks for itself and this is a result of the dedication shown by its board members and its splendid staff and volunteers, who have worked tirelessly and have maintained highest possible standards while conducting AWECC's mission.

AWECC continues to receive love and support from its members and the community and this grows stronger every day. AWECC is consistently outperforming each year and all levels of government – federal, state, and local – continue to support the mission and vision of AWECC. It is an honour to have AWECC be embraced by its local council; as a result, this year AWECC has successfully delivered number of projects and have helped the wider community.

The steady growth of AWECC have increased its workload this year. In addition to our longest-serving staff member, Brett Sanderson, we appointed part-time Community Advocacy Officers: Jodie Farrugia and Joseph Lumanog. They are supported by our casual staff and Multicultural Support Workers: Bhakti Dhamala, Grace Uwase, Christian Bashimbe, and Olivier Ruzoviyo.

Delivered projects composes of wider range and some of the projects are related but not limited to Advocacy, Culture, Capacity Building, Organisation and some of the highlights of the year projects are as listed below:

- Refugee rights campaign with key partners to legislate the Medical Evacuation Bill
- Women's rights media campaign to raise awareness of domestic violence and promote women's empowerment
- Human rights education session in collaboration with universities and regional high schools
- Workers' rights policy input to various decision-makers, advocacy groups, and service providers
- Successive media appearances to increase public profile of multicultural community
- Consultations with major institutions to resolve problems with international police checks for multicultural jobseekers
- Solidarity messages to support human rights defenders in the Philippines.
- Support for climate action with public statements in Arabic, Hindi, Mandarin, Nepali, Punjabi, Sinhala, and Tagalog
- Technical input to national and state campaigns to establish Australian Charter of Human Rights

Every project delivered this year have been equally important and much needed for community development. AWECC will continue to do its best in promoting the wellbeing of the community members and step up to advocate for the needs of community members.

In closing, I would like to thank all of the board members for their dedication and contributing their time to AWECC’s operation and big thank you to the staff members and volunteers who have worked so hard throughout the year to raise the level of performance. I would like to thank AWECC’s members, partners, and sponsors for their love and support they have shown.

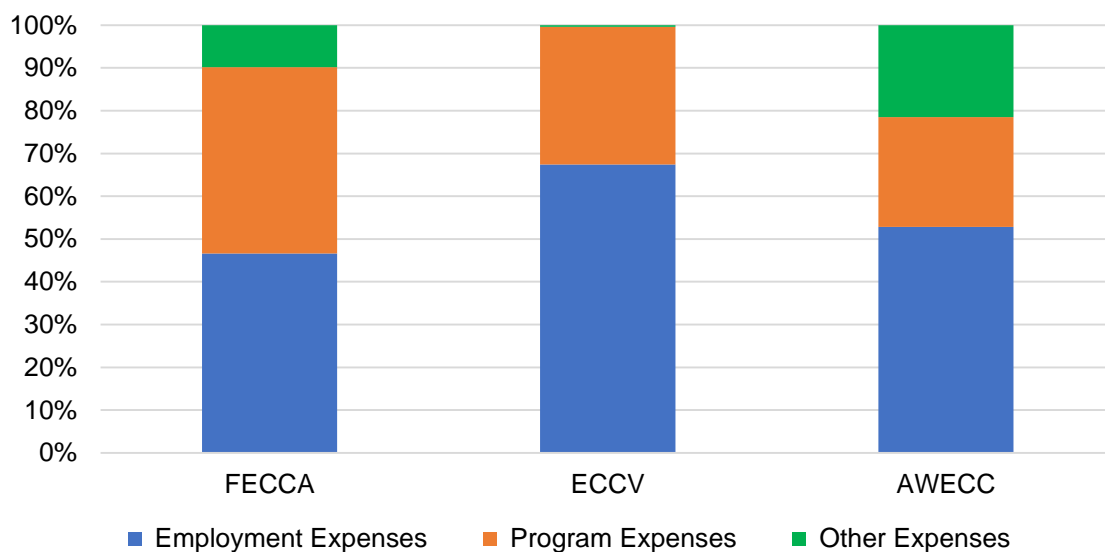
I wish AWECC and our new Board good luck and I wish you all the best for future achievements to come.

Rupinder Kaur  
 Chairperson  
 Board of Directors

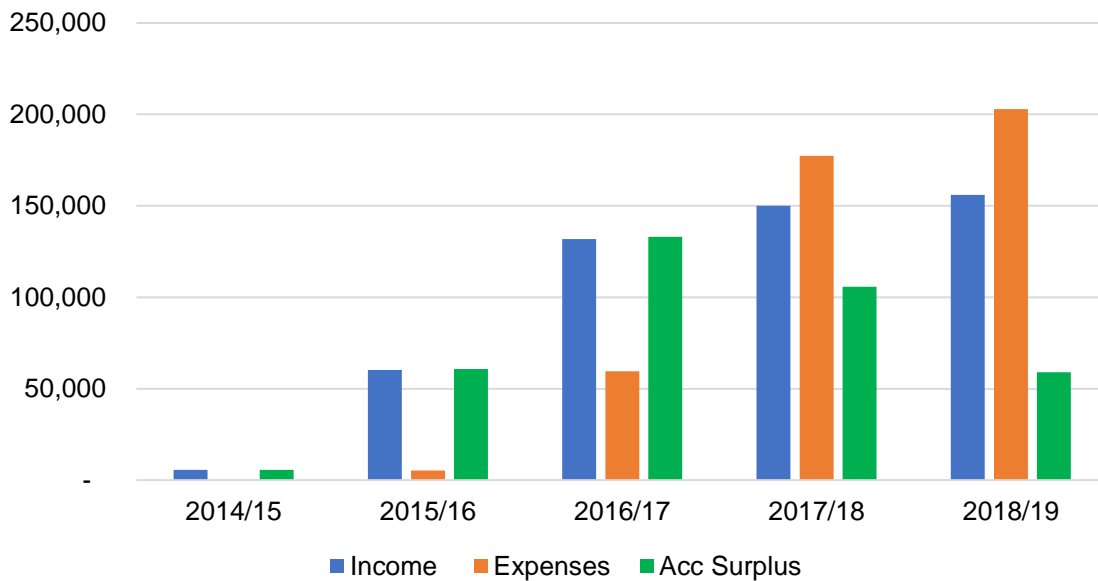
### Treasurer’s Report

I am pleased to endorse and present the financial report of AWECC for 2018-2019. This current financial year has seen the highest level of program income and expenditure since establishment in 2014. This is due to the ongoing need to invest in building the capacity of our culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities and organisations. AWECC has sought to allocate more resources to program delivery. More significantly, community events and training and development have almost doubled. These investments have also required adequate resources to ensure that programs are delivered by qualified employees. This expenditure pattern is comparable with industry practice at federal and state levels.

Expenses Comparison of Multicultural Peak Bodies 2018



### AWECC Financial Trends 2014-2019



The net loss incurred in 2018-2019 is consistent with the organisation's intention to spend down the accumulated surplus from 2017, which was caused by long-term projects. As these projects are implemented through 2020, it is expected that the surplus will even out. For this purpose, steps have been taken to ensure that cashflow is carefully monitored over time, so that AWECC remains financially viable for many years ahead.

Mariam Abbas  
Treasurer

### Contact

Albury-Wodonga Ethnic Communities Council

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Wodonga VIC 3690

## Financial Report

**Albury-Wodonga Ethnic Communities Council Inc**  
ABN 50 192 038 354  
**Income and Expenditure Statement**  
For the year ended 30 June 2019

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
<b>Income</b>		
Consulting Fees	3,830.74	
Fundraising	483.95	127.32
Grants - Government	143,202.26	134,768.03
Grants - Non Government	5,000.00	13,180.00
Interest	443.10	707.33
Memberships	770.84	713.57
Reimbursements	1,019.54	194.86
Sales	1,261.82	302.73
Total income	<u>156,012.25</u>	<u>149,993.84</u>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Accountancy	3,000.00	1,300.00
Administration & Office	10,788.48	8,518.76
Advertising & Promotion	1,824.62	3,660.37
Bank Charges	174.16	125.21
Bookkeeping	720.00	
Community Events	20,689.49	11,531.05
Community Transport	3,763.02	2,143.10
Compliance	260.95	56.90
Depreciation	2,606.00	2,315.00
Employee Entitlements	5,162.88	
Insurance	3,987.87	3,936.09
Interpreter & Translation Services	590.00	670.00
Program & Service Delivery	15,991.05	13,197.94
Rent	18,200.00	18,200.00
Repairs & Maintenance	289.79	1,616.26
Subscriptions & Memberships	1,675.72	1,282.62
Telephone & Internet	3,162.92	2,062.68
Training & Development	11,620.02	6,216.28
Travelling Expenses	1,908.76	6,859.13
Wages/Contract Labour	96,403.29	93,595.34
Total expenses	<u>202,819.02</u>	<u>177,286.73</u>

## Financial Report

### Albury-Wodonga Ethnic Communities Council Inc

ABN 50 192 038 354

#### Income and Expenditure Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2019

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
<b>Profit (loss) from ordinary activities before income tax</b>	<b>(46,806.77)</b>	<b>(27,292.89)</b>
Income tax revenue relating to ordinary activities		
<b>Net profit (loss) attributable to the association</b>	<b>(46,806.77)</b>	<b>(27,292.89)</b>
<b>Total changes in equity of the association</b>	<b>(46,806.77)</b>	<b>(27,292.89)</b>
Opening retained profits	105,770.43	133,063.32
Net profit (loss) attributable to the association	(46,806.77)	(27,292.89)
<b>Closing retained profits</b>	<b>58,963.66</b>	<b>105,770.43</b>

## Financial Report

### Albury-Wodonga Ethnic Communities Council Inc

ABN 50 192 038 354

Detailed Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2019

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
<b>Current Assets</b>			
<b>Cash Assets</b>			
Cash at Bank		60,423.90	101,354.18
Cash at Bank - Business Account		547.29	1,343.29
Paypal Account		58.14	
Visa Card - Load & Go 1		447.45	767.00
Visa Card - Load & Go 2		0.57	61.84
Petty Cash		566.58	266.01
		<u>62,043.93</u>	<u>103,792.32</u>
<b>Receivables</b>			
Trade Debtors		856.13	470.00
		<u>856.13</u>	<u>470.00</u>
<b>Current Tax Assets</b>			
GST Payable		1,868.59	(179.00)
		<u>1,868.59</u>	<u>(179.00)</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b><u>64,768.65</u></b>	<b><u>104,083.32</u></b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
<b>Property, Plant and Equipment</b>			
Office Equipment		15,382.90	8,122.00
Less: Accumulated Depreciation		(4,921.00)	(2,315.00)
		<u>10,461.90</u>	<u>5,807.00</u>
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<b><u>10,461.90</u></b>	<b><u>5,807.00</u></b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b><u>75,230.55</u></b>	<b><u>109,890.32</u></b>

## Financial Report

### Albury-Wodonga Ethnic Communities Council Inc

ABN 50 192 038 354

Detailed Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2019

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
<b>Payables</b>			
<b>Unsecured:</b>			
- Trade Creditors		6,771.27	4,119.89
- Sundry Creditors		1,866.74	
		<u>8,638.01</u>	<u>4,119.89</u>
<b>Current Tax Liabilities</b>			
PAYG Withholding Payable		2,466.00	
		<u>2,466.00</u>	
<b>Provisions</b>			
Employee Entitlements		5,162.88	
		<u>5,162.88</u>	
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<u>16,266.89</u>	<u>4,119.89</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<u>16,266.89</u>	<u>4,119.89</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<u>58,963.66</u>	<u>105,770.43</u>
<b>Members' Funds</b>			
Accumulated surplus (deficit)		58,963.66	105,770.43
<b>Total Members' Funds</b>		<u>58,963.66</u>	<u>105,770.43</u>