



## MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 19 March 2008

For Immediate Release

### Strengthening the role of CALD Men

Sam Afra, Chair of the Ethnic Communities Council of the South East (ECCOSE), announced today that ECCOSE had been contracted by Women's Health in the South East (WHISE) to work in partnership on two projects concerning ethnic communities:

- *Strengthening the role of CALD Men within their families in the Australian Context*, funded by the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust
- *Strengthening the CALD Family*, with particular emphasis on Children, funded by the Ivor Roland Evans Foundation.

The first project, focusing on the role of CALD men, has been funded for three years, while the second project has been funded for one year only.

"The funding of these projects promises a brighter future for our CALD communities, by addressing some very significant needs of newly arrived groups," Sam said. "We are very pleased with the recognition of ECCOSE's significant role with CALD communities by an important organisation such as WHISE, and are looking forward to the outcomes of the projects, and what we can then deliver longer-term to our communities," he said.

Tricia Mahon, CEO of WHISE, said, "These projects would not be possible without ECCOSE's assistance, in reaching different CALD groups. We are delighted to be working in partnership with ECCOSE in this manner, and will seek opportunities to do so again in the future".

ECCOSE will be in touch with their member community organisations in the next few weeks, to invite involvement in the projects as they are being developed and implemented.

In the first instance the projects are expected to focus on five ethnic communities – Sudanese, Vietnamese, Chinese, Turkish, and Afghani.

For further information please contact Sam Afra at ECCOSE on 9793 2000 or Tricia Mahon at WHISE on 9794 8677.

***WHISE: Strength in Dignity, Choice, Diversity and Justice***

*Women's Health in the South East is a not for profit, community based women's health service, working with individual women, communities and services in the south-eastern metropolitan region of Melbourne. We encourage women to take responsibility for their own health and wellbeing, and work to overcome disadvantage, inequality and lack of access to services. Our services include: health promotion and information; assistance and referral; service provider education; self help support groups; secondary school programs; programs for newly arrived women and families; policy analysis and advocacy.*

*Our services are free and accessible to all women in our region via our phone: (03) 9794 8677.*

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