



MCCSA Election Platform 2018 State Election

At the 2016 Census 23% (383,000) South Australians were born overseas and over 266,000 spoke a language other than English at home.

Supporting this segment of the South Australian population pays multiple dividends in enhancing South Australia's economy, social cohesion and sustainability. To assist South Australia reap the benefits from its multicultural community it needs to invest in and support its peak multicultural body, the Multicultural Communities Council of South Australia.

MCCSA programs, services and community hub strengthen South Australia's multicultural communities. MCCSA services all multicultural communities from the older post-war communities to new and emerging communities. MCCSA and its antecedents have formed a bridge to the numerous CALD communities in SA for nearly 70 years.

MCCSA is a trusted organisation which was established in August 1995 by the amalgamation of the former Ethnic Communities Council of SA (established in 1975) and the United Ethnic Communities of SA (established in 1980). These were based on the work with the Good Neighbour Councils following World War 11 in 1949.

Fund a new \$4m Multicultural Hub for MCCSA

In 2014/ 2015 MCCSA had support from 31 SA community organisations when it sought funding to expand its community hub. Demand has increased since then and the need for additional space has become more urgent.

MCCSA's current Community Hub at 113 Gilbert Street is heavily used and 2016/17 we had 814 bookings for both the hall and the training room. To meet the increasing demand from CALD communities **MCCSA wants all parties to listen to South Australia's CALD communities and commit to provision of a one off contribution of \$4 million for a new purpose built MCCSA multi-function building.**

Investing in MCCSA with an adequate building is investing in a stronger South Australia and facilitating the contribution of all South Australian's to a brighter future for our State. ***Investing in MCCSA means investing in a trusted multicultural organisation with links to both established and new and emerging communities.*** MCCSA membership includes established community organisations , new and emerging communities from both the humanitarian and skilled migrants sector. MCCSA also supports older migrants who have come in through family reunion. Servicing groups from babies to the very elderly MCCSA is ideally placed to assist SA migrant communities and individuals to contribute to maximise their participation in Australian society and to creatively and innovatively contribute to South Australia's cultural life and economic development. **Help MCCSA to help South Australia grow.**



Skilled Migrants

One of the lessons which can be drawn from South Australia's migration history is that skilled migrants who come to South Australia independently often face difficulty in gaining employment in their areas of expertise and may end up working for varying periods of time in lower skilled areas. When migrants are unable to use their skills, expertise and connections not only does this impact negatively on them but it also impacts negatively on South Australia's capacity to grow its economy, expand the breadth and depth of its industries and service sector and its engagement with the global market. There are many potential benefits for the South Australian economy in improving the utilisation of skilled migrants. **MCCSA wants all parties to support a skilled migrant internship program managed by MCCSA which helps place skilled workers in South Australian organisations for six month placements at lower salaries** so that overseas migrants are exposed to the Australian work environment. This will give prospective employers a low risk way of gauging the transferability of their skills and enable them to see where they may be able to value.

Migrating to a country without the structure of paid employment or study presents a raft of challenges to people which impacts on every area of their life. Whilst humanitarian migrants gets substantial initial support there is very limited support offered through the State Government to skilled migrants. The skilled migrants who have approached MCCSA are looking for longer and more in-depth support than is currently offered. **We call on all parties to support funding MCCSA to establish a skilled migrant network, which provides social support, and training** on topics of benefit to skilled migrants. This would include psycho social skills and profile segments of the SA economy.

International Students

Overseas students make a substantial contribution to South Australia's economy. However, in prorated terms South Australia has substantially less overseas students than could be expected on a population basis. While South Australia has 7.2% of the population of the 2016 Census it only had 4.6% of the overseas student market in 2017. To improve the overseas student market share it is important that South Australia adequately support this unique student population which came from 129 countries in 2017. MCCSA with its strong multicultural experience and community connections and community engagement experience is strongly placed to work with this student population. **MCCSA is seeking funding for an exploratory study to identify issues which impact on the student experience in South Australia and explore with students and institutions future initiatives to enhance the student experience and increase the likelihood of future positive referrals to the South Australian education system.**



Sector Support

At present the Government provides inadequate sector support funding to MCCA for its peak body role. **We call on all parties to support a minimum commitment of \$2.00 per culturally and linguistically diverse South Australian per year.** Using the lower figure of the 266,000 South Australians who speak a language other than English at home this would mean **increasing tri annual sector support funding to MCCA to a minimum of \$532,000 per year.**

These funds will enable MCCA to:

- undertake activities that strengthen South Australia's multicultural communities and ensure that they are part of the broader South Australian community
- communicate with our member organisations and the wider South Australian community about important CALD issues
- maintain and manage its Community Hub
- strengthen social cohesion through its activities such as playgroups, seniors programs, digital training, youth programs and forums on complex topics which impact on social cohesion and wellbeing such as racism and domestic violence.
- facilitate State and Federal governments and research institutions reaching people that they otherwise find difficult to access
- contribute to a variety of boards and committees providing a CALD perspective
- undertake advocacy work for the CALD community
- undertake broader community development work with smaller communities
- collaborate with other South Australian organisations and provide input into key social and economic issues such as health, suicide, ageing, resource use, and youth

CALD Age Friendly

Many post war migrants have contributed to the development of South Australia's economy and infrastructure. A large number of them worked in unskilled jobs in either the short or long term when they arrived. Often their working situation prevented them receiving adequate English tuition. As they age their English competency impacts on their ability to successfully manage the later stages of their life and to access appropriate services and programs. MCCSA undertook a research project looking at what was needed for a CALD age friendly South Australia. MCCSA wants the contribution of this significant sector of the South Australian community recognised **through implementation of the following recommendations** from the Office for the Ageing *CALD Age Friendly SA* report:

- **projects that explore communication strategies to increase awareness of older people from CALD backgrounds to available information, services and programs.**
- **projects which explore ethno-specific communities' access to programs, social activities and groups for seniors to expand opportunities for social, cultural and economic participation**



Multicultural Youth

Disadvantage for multicultural youth from the inner west to northern regions of Adelaide is the result of complex multi layered issues that is creating the risk of multi-generational cycles of disadvantage in the region.

Invest \$200,000 in our CALD youth programs so that MCCSA can identify and address specific barriers for this cohort so that they can transition into a positive, engaged adult life that will contribute back into the region.

MCCSA will develop a collaborative and holistic approach to addressing these complex issues by developing solutions in conjunction with diverse stakeholders and service providers in the area including multicultural communities, schools, health services, family and youth services etc.

MCCSA would like all parties to support this strategic initiative that will address long term outcomes for our future generations of multicultural youth.



Caring for vulnerable CALD South Australians

Carers Australia have estimated that between 25 - 30% of carers in Australia are from CALD backgrounds.

Some of the key issues for CALD carers include:

- lesser uptake of Centrelink carer payments, benefits and concessions;
- problems with the cultural appropriateness of assessment processes and eligibility criteria;
- lack of choice between mainstream and culturally-specific carer services, such as respite, carer counselling, and support groups;
- lack of individual and systemic advocacy;
- lack of availability of bilingual and culturally and linguistically diverse staff;
- lack of carer information and resources translated into different languages; and
- issues relating to the quality of interpreter services.

MCCSA calls on all parties to support the increase in sector support funding so that MCCSA can undertake systemic advocacy for CALD carers in SA.

MCCSA helped to organise two round table conversations for faith leaders on family violence. MCCSA is clear that ongoing work is needed in this area for CALD communities. **MCCSA wants a part time community development officer based at MCCSA to be funded to work with faith leaders and raise awareness of the multitude of issues associated with family violence.**

Healthy South Australians

Good health is a fundamental part of wellbeing. MCCSA supports the following:

- **Establishment of a multicultural mental health unit which draws on the lessons from similar units interstate and overseas and improves mental health outcomes for the CALD community.**
- **The development of health policy which is based on evidence, research, and consumer input (including CALD consumer input) at all stages in order to improve health outcomes**

- Expand training, performance review and compliance that promotes culturally appropriate and non-discriminatory health care within SA Health, including for CALD, ATSI, LGBTQI.
- Development of a Primary Health Strategy for SA incorporating preventative health education and health literacy which benefits all SA including those with no or poor English.

MCCSA supports Palliative Care SA election bid and asks for \$24.5 million to improved access to in home palliative care which includes:

- Reposition the access point community palliative care \$14 Million
- 24/7 access to palliative care \$4 Million
- Integrate palliative care in chronic illness pathways \$6 Million
- **Improving community information about death \$400K**

