

**ETHNIC DISABILITY  
ADVOCACY CENTRE Inc**  
*www.edac.org.au*

**FIFTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT  
2009-2010**



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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

We wish to acknowledge the continued recurrent advocacy funding from the Department of Family and Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (DFaHCSIA); and the Disability Services Commission (DSC)

We also acknowledge additional funding from DSC for the Disability First Stop Program and special projects.

Lotterywest continues to provide the Ethnic Disability Advocacy Centre (EDAC) with ongoing office accommodation and support which is greatly appreciated.

We would like to thank the Independent Living Centre, Commonwealth Job Access for supporting and providing equipment funding for our employees and clients and Symantec for the donation of computer software.

We also wish to acknowledge the support of all those who have served on our Management Committee, project steering committees, and volunteers. With their assistance EDAC has been successful in achieving its objectives.

# **EDAC**

## **ROLE OF EDAC**

EDAC is core-funded by both the Commonwealth Department of Family and Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (DFaHCSIA) and the Disability Services Commission (WA), to provide individual and systemic advocacy, support and information to people with disabilities and their families/carers who are from culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) backgrounds. EDAC is a Western Australian community-based organization which advocates and empowers people with disabilities who are from CaLD backgrounds and assists to advance their interests.

## **MISSION**

EDAC vigorously seeks to both protect and promote the rights and interests of CaLD people with disabilities and their families/carers in order for them to fulfil their full potential as Australian citizens in our multicultural society.

## **EDAC'S MAIN OBJECTIVES**

- To advocate on behalf of people with disabilities who are from CaLD backgrounds in order for them to achieve equal access to services and resources in our community and for those services to be provided in culturally responsive ways.
- To empower those individuals and families by increasing their leadership, participation and self-advocacy in consultation and decision making, in all areas which affect their lives.
- To also increase the awareness of ethnic communities, the disability services sector and mainstream society of issues affecting people with disabilities and their families who are from CaLD backgrounds - through education programs, training activities and other appropriate means.
- To include and represent people with disabilities who are from CaLD backgrounds and their issues in public forums, government consultations and the activities of organisations.

## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

### Executive Members:

Nihal Iscel	President (Oct – Dec 2009)
John Cooke	Vice-President (A/President from Jan 2010)
Angelo Cianciosi	(Coopted Dec 2009; A/Vice-President Jan 2010)
Dr. Bernadette Wright	Secretary
Suresh Rajan	Treasurer

### Committee Members:

Melissa Del Borrello	
Eddie Khoo	
Khadra A Jama Alol	
Jasbir Singh Mann	
Wendy Rose	
Annie Abraham	(Coopted Dec 2009)
Lesley Cangemi	(Coopted Dec 2009)
Dr Karen Soldatic	(Coopted Jan 2010)

### STAFF

Jenny Au Yeong	Chief Executive Officer
Thuan Geh	Administrator
Veronica FitzGerald	Administrative Officer
Nihal Iscel	Manager Advocacy Services
Maranda Ali	Systemic Advocate
Syed Ali	Individual Advocate
Beatriz Andrew	Individual Advocate
Paranthaman Kuppusamy	Advocacy/ Project Officer
Lee Bickford	Senior Individual Advocate
Zeliha Iscel	EthnicAbility Coordinator
Sanja Vuksanovic	EthnicAbility program assistant
Wil Nayar	Senior Regional Advocate
Marlena Kahika	Regional Advocate
Asha Devi Selathurai	IT and Administrative Support (from April 2009)
Manjit Kaur	Project officer

### Consultants

Rhonda Murphy  
Brennan Lane  
Kevin Cheong  
Dolly Bhargava  
Tony Serve

### Volunteers

Harry Pickett  
Aileen Whittaker

# REPORTS

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

EDAC has a history of good practice as a peak multicultural and disability advocacy agency in WA. I have been a member on the Board of EDAC for a number of years and elected Vice President at the last AGM. It was therefore a privilege to accept the nomination of acting President when Nihal stepped down to take on employment with EDAC early in the year.

EDAC has had an incredibly busy year with advocacy activities, evaluation and reporting requirements. Whilst the National Disability Advocacy Program (NDAP) has provided some constructive changes to improve advocacy practices and accountability, the reform is an ongoing process and still requires regular input from advocacy agencies.

EDAC successfully completed a three yearly audit by DFaHCSIA in July-August 2009 and received a favourable report indicating no non-compliances. Some areas for service improvements were noted and all these items have been addressed.

EDAC was one of 12 national advocacy agencies and the only agency in WA selected to participate in the NDAP Quality Certification Trial. This involved meeting all the 24 KPIs established in the NDAP Advocacy Standards. EDAC went through a very vigorous audit with the International Standards Certifications (ISC) Pty Ltd in May 2010. The report from ISC indicated that EDAC had met all requirements within the KPIs. This is another indication that EDAC has sound management systems in place.

Pending the development of a Strategic Plan for the next 3 years the Board initiated a Continuous Improvement Action Plan for 2009-2010. The next phase of strategic planning is now underway.

I had the pleasure of attending DSC's Chairs forum on a number of occasions and found networking with other Chairs from disability agencies valuable in sharing ideas and receiving first hand information on current disability sector activities. We congratulate the DSC for this initiative.

Individual and systemic advocacy remained our core activity and a small increase in funding from the DSC has enabled EDAC to undertake more systemic advocacy activities including consultations with our consumers and communities and responding to significant reviews and consultations such as the Migration Review and the Productivity Commission Inquiry on the long term care and support for people with disability.

We thank all staff and volunteers for their commitments and dedication in our achievements this year. We also convey our congratulations to the CEO, Jenny Au Yeong who received an International Women's Day award for her contributions in enhancing the role of ethnic women in WA.

On behalf of the Management Committee I would like to convey our thanks and appreciation to Nihal Iscel, our past President for her excellent leadership role and contribution to the organisation. We acknowledge with utmost appreciation members who have served on our Management Committee, project steering committees, clients and family members who have provided valuable input to many consultations.

We also acknowledge the continuing support of the funding bodies and the many disability and multicultural agencies that we worked with throughout the year.

**John Cooke**

## **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

EDAC has had another challenging and successful year as reflected in the range of individual and systemic advocacy work reported. Many of the systemic activities are attributed to State and National reforms which have resulted in important strategic directions and framework for the disability sector. They include, the Count Me In - Disability Future Directions, the WA Economic Audit Report and the National Disability Strategy. These reforms have provided strong foundations for the disability sector to build on greater community participation and inclusion of people with disabilities. EDAC will be using these recommendations and frameworks to advocate for culturally responsive service access for people from CaLD backgrounds with disabilities and their families.

The ratification of the United Nation's Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was welcoming as it symbolised a commitment to equality of rights and opportunities for all Australians with disability. EDAC has provided information and promotion on the UN Convention. We also contributed to the Shadow Report which highlighted the experiences and issues affecting CaLD people with disabilities and provided various recommendations. Another important submission was the Migration Review on the Treatment of Disability. The Health Requirements under the Migration Act 1958 are too stringent and contrary to the principles and objectives of the UN Convention. This has been a major issue for the ethnic disability sector and we have been working collaboratively with the National Ethnic Disability Alliance to advocate for improvements to the assessment criteria and recognition of the social and economic contributions of the person with disability.

EDAC also contributed to the Productivity Commission's Inquiry into the long term care and support for people with disability, the proposed National Disability Insurance Scheme, Disruptive Behaviour Management, Guardianship Review, Advance Health Directives and the Senate Committee Inquiry on Ageing and People with a Disability.

Individual advocacy continues to be the core activity of EDAC. We supported over 200 people with disabilities with 307 issues addressed. There have been an increasing number of clients with mental health issues including a significant number experiencing dual diagnosis and multiple disabilities. The State Administrative Tribunal has referred a number of complex cases for guardianship and administrative support.

The West Kimberley Regional Advocacy was established this year, in partnership with People with Disability WA and the Aboriginal Disability Network. Strong relationships have been established with the community and government agencies including Aboriginal service providers.

This year we saw the completion of many projects. EDAC has been contracted by DSC to deliver Culturally Inclusive and Aboriginal Cultural perspectives of Disability Services Standards workshops to funded disability services using the resources previously developed by EDAC. Evaluation of these workshops indicated that they were highly valued by the community. Service Improvement Grants administered by EDAC also enabled some disability agencies to implement responsive service delivery programs to their CaLD and Aboriginal clients.

I would like to convey my thanks to all Management Committee members, staff and volunteers for their commitment and hard work. Without their support we would not have achieved what we did. Finally I would also like to acknowledge the continuing support of the funding bodies and disability and multicultural agencies that we worked with throughout the year.

**Jenny Au Yeong**

## **INDIVIDUAL ADVOCACY**

EDAC's objective in individual advocacy is to provide an effective, culturally responsive service to safeguard and advance the rights, interests and wellbeing of people with disability.

### **METROPOLITAN PERTH**

The majority of EDAC's clients attend the office in Subiaco. However, in reviewing our records a few years ago it became evident that there were an increasing number of clients living in the south east corridor of the metropolitan area. In order to meet the service access needs of these clients it became necessary for us to have a presence in that region. Since February, 2008 EDAC has provided a service one day a week at the Multicultural Services WA office in Cannington. Similarly there is a growing demand for services in the northern corridor of the metropolitan area. EDAC is currently exploring options for rental space in this corridor and anticipate opening an office in the Mirrabooka area in the near future. EDAC will continue to explore options for funding to expand its services to reach clients in the outer urban areas.

#### **Disability First Stop (DFS)**

*Funded by the Disability Services Commission WA.*

DFS was first funded in 2004 with five partner agencies to provide information and supported referral to people newly diagnosed with a disability in the 18 months preceding their first contact with the DFS program. Following a review after the triennium, four partner agencies continue to be involved, each has responsibility for service delivery to their particular target group with some collaboration in promotion and co-ordination. A new proposal was submitted to the Commission by four partner agencies and recommended the continuation of an expanded service. The proposal was accepted.

### **REGIONAL ADVOCACY WA**

*Funded by the Australian Government Department, FaHCSIA*

EDAC has a standing commitment to seek opportunities to develop CaLD disability advocacy in regional WA. EDAC has been successful in obtaining funding from DFaCHSIA to set up advocacy services in regional WA, in particular in rural and remote areas that traditionally have not had any funded disability advocacy services.

#### **Carnarvon Advocacy**

Funding has been provided since January, 2008 for a part-time regional disability advocacy service based in Carnarvon and also covers the coastal towns of Denham and Exmouth.

The Shire of Carnarvon is one of the regional centres of the Gascoyne (Mid-West) region of WA. The 2001 Census indicated 8.9% of Carnarvon's population was born overseas from non-English speaking background countries and 9.6% speak a language other than English. Those overseas born are mainly from Croatia, Vietnam, Portugal and Italy. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders also represents 18.1% of the total population of 6,390. Several towns within the region also have a significantly higher proportion of elderly people, e.g. towns of Onslow, Denham and Exmouth have proportions greater than 18%. The economic base is mainly fishing and agriculture.

This service has been promoted widely across the region. EDAC has conducted community consultations and transcultural mental health training to service providers in the region. Advocacy was provided to 28 clients from 15 ethnic backgrounds. Their

issues ranged from inadequate service access, accommodation, discrimination, financial entitlements and equipment needs. People with physical, psychiatric, intellectual and medical conditions were the majority of clients seen.

### **West Kimberly Advocacy**

EDAC with its partners People with Disability (PWDWA) and Aboriginal Disability Network has recently established an advocacy service for all people with disability but in particular from Aboriginal and CaLD communities. A full-time Regional Advocacy Officer was appointed in April 2010 based in Derby and visits Broome, Fitzroy Crossing and outlying Aboriginal communities on a regular basis.

The West Kimberley covers an area of 102,706 sq. km. Many of the outlying communities are remote and not accessible during the wet season. Mining and mineral exploration on and off shore, and pearl production are growing areas of employment in the region; these are generally speaking, remote area activities associated with significant health risks.

Promotion and community networking in Broome and Derby was the primary activity of the advocate in the first few months and had to be sensitively handled. The Kimberley has a large Aboriginal population (47%), with some towns e.g. Fitzroy Crossing having a resident Aboriginal population of 70%. In order to provide a culturally safe and secure service, it is important that the advocate be invited by the elders to visit and provide a service to the remote Aboriginal communities.

Common health and disability matters in Derby and Fitzroy Crossing are complex and often include alcohol foetal syndrome, acquired brain disability, alcohol and/or drug misuse and accident resulting in physical disability, memory loss, aggression and depression. Current advocacy issues in Derby and Fitzroy Crossing are isolation, transport, care assistance, respite, Centrelink, housing and equipment.

During this reporting period, the advocate assisted five clients from Aboriginal backgrounds with issues relating to respite and care support, expediency of medical appointment, para-legal and financial matters. Interviews and assessments can take a long time and often involves the collaboration of local service providers.



*Jenny Au Yeong, CEO (seated left) with Nihal Iscel, Manager Advocacy Services (seated right). Will Nayar, Carnarvon Regional Senior Advocacy Officer (left) and Marlena Kahika, W. Kimberley Regional Advocacy Officer (right)*

## CLIENT CHARACTERISTICS

The following is a breakdown of profiles of EDAC's individual advocacy clients.

### Types of Disability (primary disability of the client only)

From figure 1 below it would appear that the number of people with psychiatric disability has increased quite significantly from < 10% in the 2007-2008 financial year to 15% this financial year. This cohort could present with dual or multiple diagnoses. Unfortunately this data does not report on people with other types of disability where mental health is a secondary condition. EDAC works closely with other disability advocacy services and multicultural mental health services to ensure these clients do not continue to fall through the gaps.

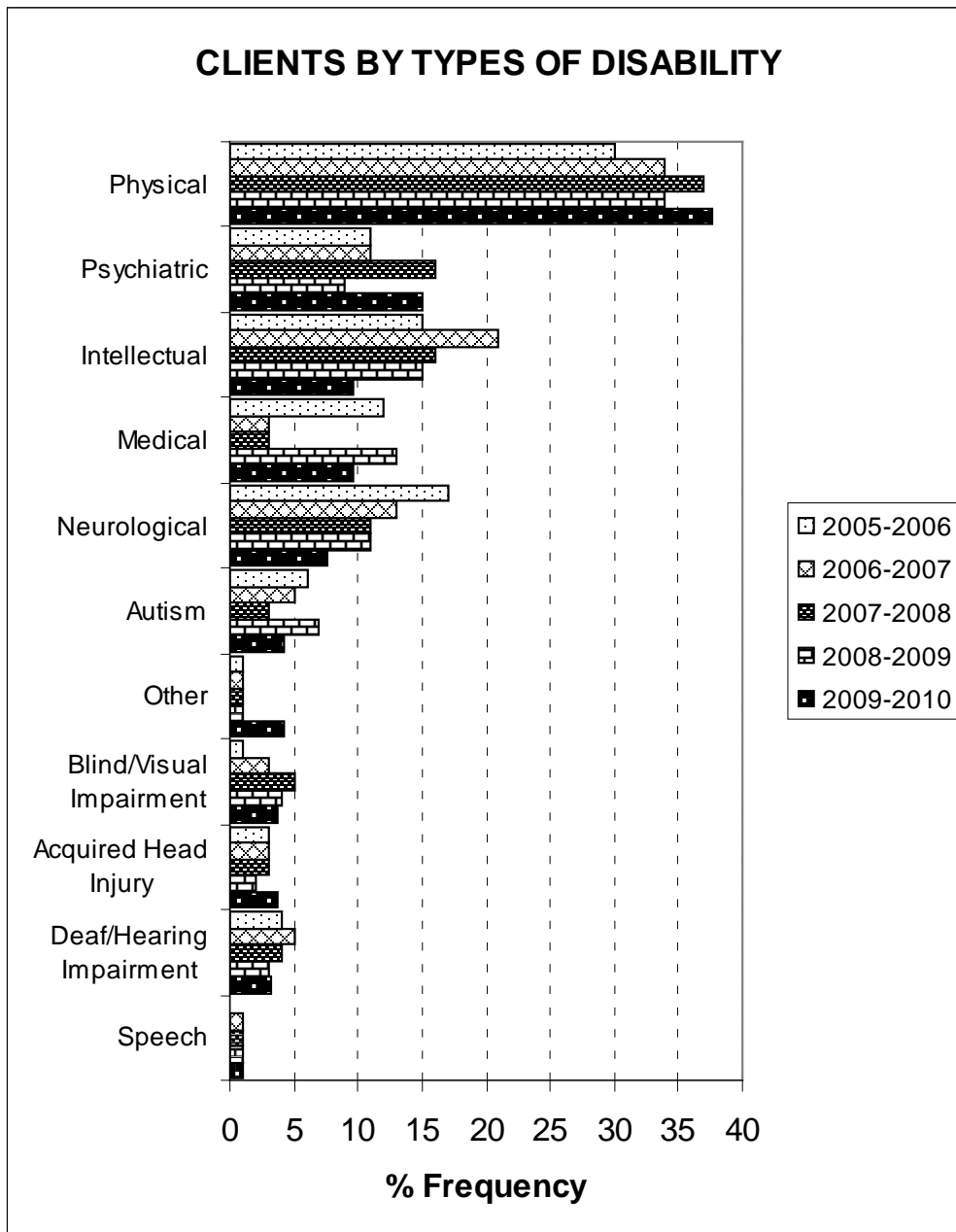


Figure 1: Clients by Type of Disability

## Ethnicity

Ethnicity is self-identified and provides EDAC with information of the different ethnic groups that people belong to and the trends. EDAC's clients were quite wide spread from 53 different ethnic backgrounds. Clients from Middle Eastern countries represent 15% of the total client population. This financial year clients of Chinese, Iraqi, Somali, Vietnamese and Afghan backgrounds each represented between 5 -10 % of the service population. For the first time people from Aboriginal backgrounds is reported in our data due to the commencement of our West Kimberley advocacy service.

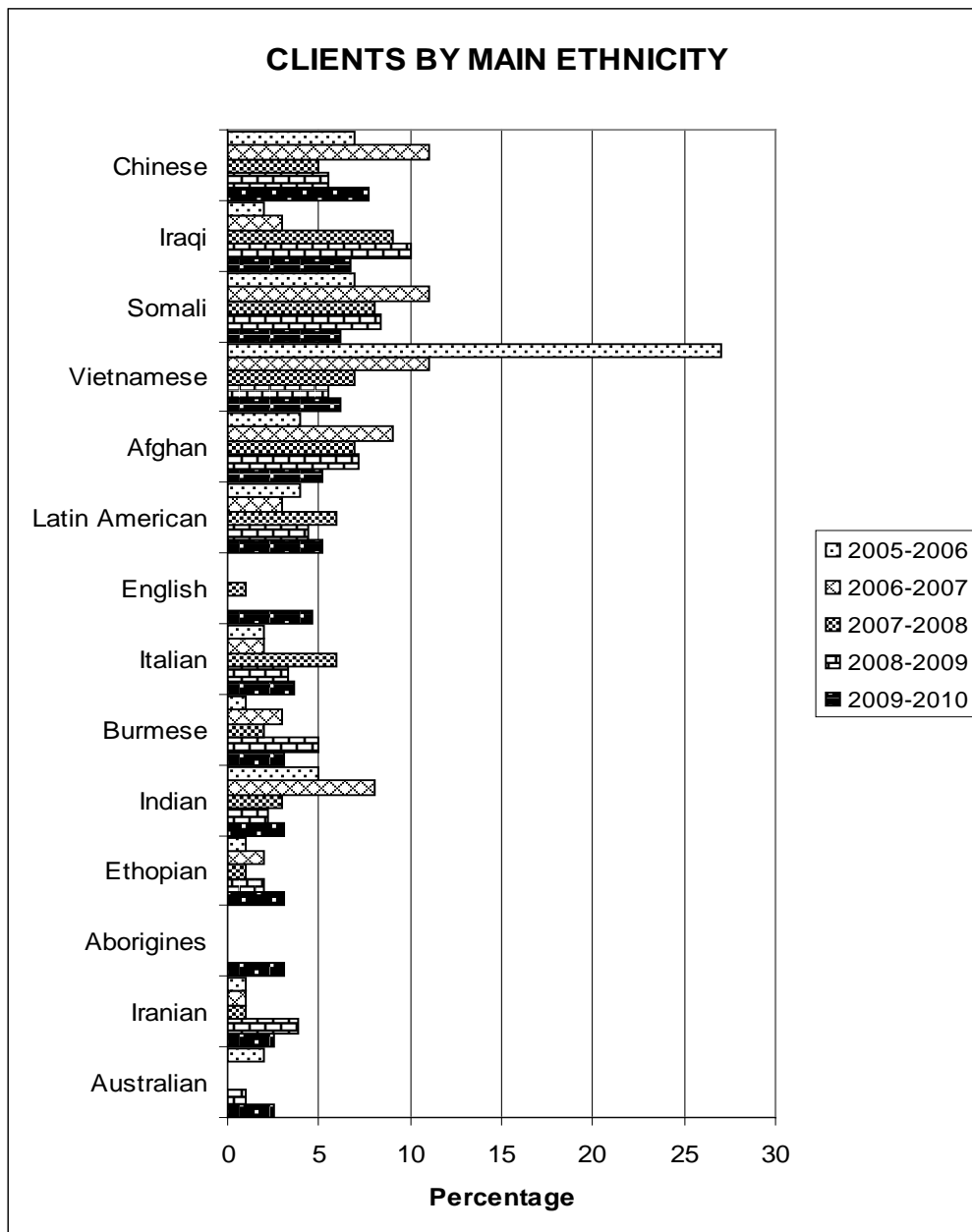


Figure 2: Clients by ethnicity

## Individual Advocacy Issues

The biggest increase in presenting issues has been service access/gaps – from 20% in the previous financial years to 27% this financial year. Accommodation issues are ranked second highest (17%). It is a reflection of the current housing problem. From the table below it appears to be an increase in clients presenting with legal issues. This is partly the result of a number of clients being referred from the State Administrative Tribunal to EDAC for advocacy support in guardianship matters.

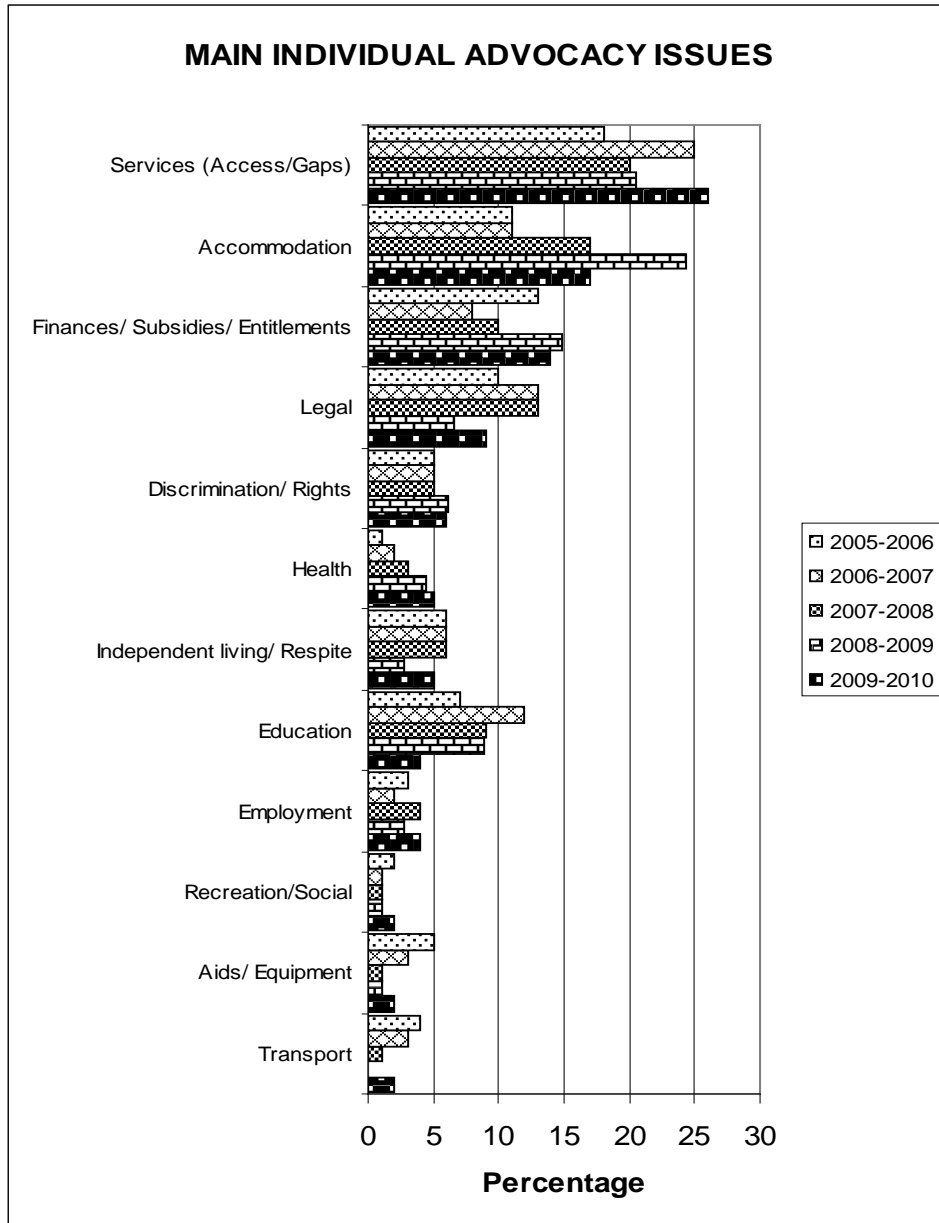


Figure 3: Clients by advocacy issues

### Age Distribution

As can be seen in Figure 4 below, the 35-55 year old age group is the most highly represented. This client group has acquired a disability after migration and tends to lack knowledge of services and understand their rights as consumers. The steady decline in children and young adults requiring EDAC's services is possibly a reflection of improvement in early diagnosis and access to early intervention and support services for this cohort.

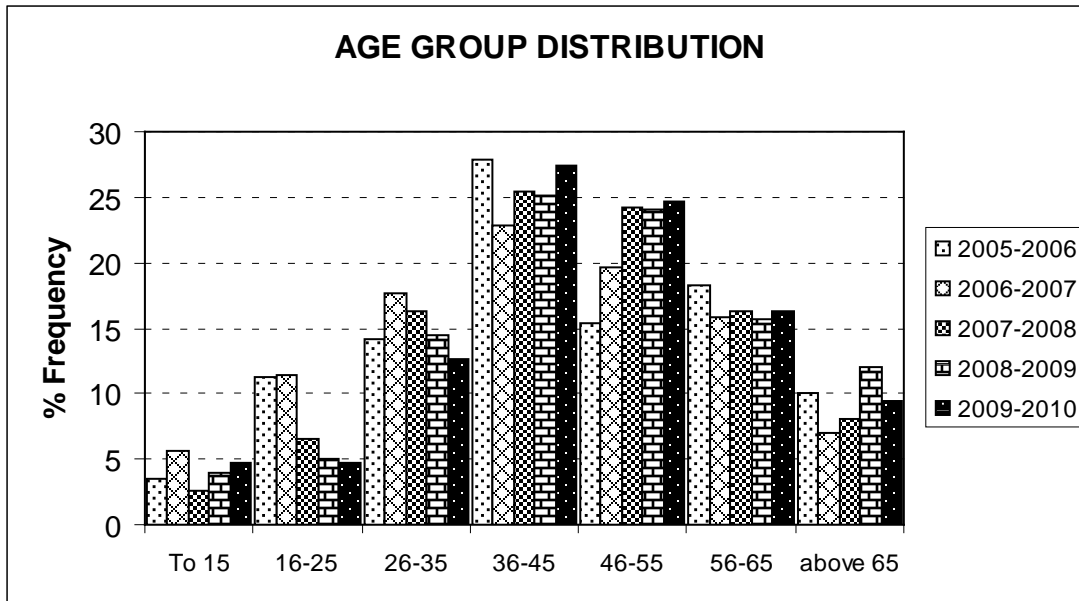


Figure 4: Clients by Age Group



Lee Bickford, Senior Advocacy Officer (centre) with Roberto de Souza Lima (right) and his family

## CASE STUDIES

***(Disclaimer: Case studies are valuable learning opportunities to demonstrate the range of individual advocacy issues. EDAC has taken all reasonable precautions to protect the identities of the clients by withholding names and cultural backgrounds.)***

### **Case 1: Permanent spouse visa in question due to health issue**

An Australian citizen from CaLD background who married overseas had subsequently applied for a Partner Permanent Visa. They had a daughter born in Australia. The issue which complicated an otherwise straightforward matter was that the wife had developed a serious illness while living in Australia that required ongoing treatment. The marriage was accepted by the Immigration Department as a genuine one, however because of the wife's health condition, a Health Waiver request was needed to be submitted and approved by the Department.

If the Health Waiver request was not accepted, the wife would not be able to remain in Australia. This would create a potentially traumatic situation for the family. Due to the wife's disability EDAC provided advocacy support and assistance in completing a very complex and lengthy application for Health Waiver. This included obtaining health reports and statements from family members demonstrating that her health condition would not necessarily be a major burden to the health system with good community support.

The application was successful.

### **Case 2: The importance of using a professional interpreter in a disputed Worker's Compensation Claim**

A client was referred for assistance in a Worker's Compensation dispute by a Rehabilitation agency. It was reported that he had sustained physical injury at work and was receiving rehabilitation on a "without prejudice" basis, pending the claim being accepted. Other injuries were sustained but had not been reported at the time and therefore liability was not accepted. The initial Specialist report did not indicate other injury.

This assessment was based partly on the client's verbal reporting of the incident. Due to his limited English, his colleagues were used as interpreters instead of professional interpreters. They too had limited English skills that resulted in inadequate and inconsistent reporting of the incident.

With the support of EDAC the client was able to obtain further medical tests which showed other disabilities that were linked to the work place injury. EDAC supported him in several Directions Hearings by ensuring that in each subsequent hearing a Professional Interpreter was used. The client was able to participate in all the hearing processes. The outcome was that the insurance company agreed to accept the injury as being work related.

### **Case 3: Client with multiple issues.**

*(This is to illustrate the complexities of some cases and that clients do return for additional support especially those who have dual diagnosis and multiple disabilities. It is important that clients believe that their issues are taken seriously and all avenues of redress are explored even though all cases may not have successful outcomes.)*

Examples of issues presented by a single client:

Employment discrimination: Client was assisted to make an application to the Australian Industrial Relations Commission against his employer on the grounds that his employment was unlawfully terminated. An application was also made to waive the fee despite the lapse of 21 days at the time. The employer argued that the application was not made to the Australian Industrial Relation Commission within the 21 days time period as required by the *Workplace Relations Act 1996*.

At this point EDAC's advocate approached a legal firm for pro-bono

assistance to appeal against the employer's argument as the client claimed that he had an acute medical condition during that period and therefore was unable to comply with the application period. A medical letter was also provided.

The appeal was dismissed on the grounds that the application was not made within 21 days. In addition the medical claim could not be accepted as he had lodged an application with the Equal Opportunity Commission during that period. This vital information was withheld by the client when he approached EDAC for assistance.

Breach of extended warranty: Client approached EDAC again this time to assist with a breach of an extended warranty as he had not serviced his car within the required time. His request for reimbursement for repairs to his car was rejected by the insurance company. EDAC successfully negotiated for the warranty to be reinstated and the cost reimbursed.

Unprofessional conduct: Client had engaged a lawyer in a medical negligence claim against a hospital. He claimed that the lawyer had acted unprofessionally by not providing him with adequate fee structure and a receipt for payment he made. An application was made to the Legal Profession Complaints Committee as directed by the client. The case is still pending and is being investigated.

Consumer protection: Client requested assistance to replace a defective remote control for his car that he bought from a retail shop recently. EDAC successfully negotiated for a replacement.

#### **Case 4: Regional Issue – lacked knowledge of available services due to isolation and cultural factors**

An elderly carer was distressed over the situation of his spouse's mental state and had sought assistance from Centrelink. The case was referred to

EDAC's regional service.

Husband and wife owned and managed a farm out of town. The wife had been suffering from dementia and depression and the husband was her sole carer. For some time they coped with a brief bimonthly home visit from a mental health service.

The wife's deteriorating medical condition caused her to revert back to her native language and required her to have 24hr supervision. Her language barriers, tendency to wander and becoming disorientated when cooking created high risks for her wellbeing and that of her husband; who was becoming more and more distressed and also depressed from his lack of ability to cope.

The regional advocate visited the couple and recommended an Aged Care assessment through their GP. The ACAT is located in another town. This referral and assessment would establish the necessary support and services required. A referral was also made for urgent HACC service for meals on wheels as well as to the Mental Health Unit for a review of his wife's treatment plan.

The carer was given a list of contacts of services in the region, to better understand the services available and his rights to obtain appropriate support. The wife now receives regular in-home care from Silverchain, regular Meals on Wheels and more frequent visits from the Mental Health Unit. Due to the support received the carer was able to cope and adequately care for his wife at home.

The advocate identified that most publications were written in English and that there is a need for service providers to translate their information packages in community languages. The matter was referred to EDAC for systemic advocacy action.

## SYSTEMIC ADVOCACY

Systemic Advocacy is about advocating for changes in policies, practices and legislation to improve service delivery and uphold the rights of people with disabilities. Strategies may also include advocacy development, influencing community development, community education, and networking with groups.

EDAC has undertaken extensive systemic advocacy activities this year to represent the rights of CaLD people with disabilities and their families. Raising awareness of ethnicity/ disability issues and barriers, and strategies of service improvement and cultural responsiveness, were presented in various forums, conference presentations, government submissions, agency networking and community consultations.

A number of consumer consultations and projects enabled EDAC to empower CaLD people with disabilities to advocate for themselves and to take charge of decision making processes.

The following are some systemic advocacy activities undertaken by EDAC.

### CONFERENCE/SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

- *Dual Diagnosis - Mental Health and Disability, Mental Health Forum.*
- Evaluation of "Stepping out of the shadows - Mental Health stigma reduction for CaLD communities.
- UN Convention on the Rights of People with disabilities, benefits for ethnic women. International Women's Day Forum.
- Opening address for the launch of the video, *Our Voices Our Journey* produced by DSC.
- Disability Advocacy, Training Day, Dept of Immigration's Settlement Grants Program.

- Awareness of issues impacting CaLD people with Mental Illness, Curtin University.
- Transcultural Mental Health Care Workshop, presented to the Carnarvon Mental Health Professional Network.

### PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS AND SUBMISSIONS

EDAC provided written submissions in response to inquiries on a number of issues - to uphold the rights of CaLD people with disabilities, to be represented in all aspects of disability services development, delivery, management and policy.

- Enduring Power of Guardianship Review.
- Advance Health Directives forms and information kit.
- Attended consultation with Dept of Immigration's Review on the Integrated Humanitarian Settlement Strategy..
- The Economic Audit Committee WA
- Migration Review and treatment of disability
- Annual Review of Humanitarian Program.
- Senate Committee Inquiry on Ageing and People with a Disability.
- Review of the National Standards for Disability Services.
- Response to the Shadow Report on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability - Experiences of people with a disability from a CaLD background.
- Response to AFDO regarding Australia's capacity to uphold the UN Convention of the Rights of Persons with a Disability (Shadow Report)
- Disruptive Behaviour Management Strategy, Dept of Housing.
- Housing 2020 - Future Directions for Affordable Housing.

- Transport issues for CaLD communities, OMI.
- Consulted on language policy of the Dept of Health
- Consulted on the voting system for people with disabilities, WA Electorate Commission.
- Consulted on the Abuse and Neglect Hotline by CRRS, Sydney.
- Consulted on the economic, social and civic contributions of refugees with disabilities, University of Adelaide.

### **FORUMS/MEETINGS**

- Carers Participation and Representation in Health.
- Disability Coalition WA.
- Centrelink Multicultural Consultative Committee.
- Chairs' Forum, DSC
- WAIFS official Launch.
- Launch of NEDA's "What does the data say?" Report at Parliament House in Canberra.
- "Disability 2010 your rights at work and play forum," Equal Opportunity Commission."
- Northern Multicultural Network Group (City of Wanneroo).

### **INFORMATION AND PROVISION AT PUBLIC EVENTS**

EDAC participated in a number of promotional activities in the community. Examples were:

- Display at ATE EXPO coordinated by DSC
- Co ordinate Mental Health Week Forum and Display.
- Presentation to SW staff at RPH
- EDAC's information display at the Hyde Park Festival

### **CONSUMERS' REFERENCE GROUP**

The CaLD Disability Consumer Reference Group was established to provide advice and feedback on systemic advocacy issues. EDAC also provides opportunities for skills development.

### **SUPPORTING MULTICULTURAL CARERS**

The Multicultural Carers Group continues to hold their monthly meetings at EDAC with the financial support and coordination from the WA Red Cross.

EDAC also supports the Muslim Carers' Group at the MWSC.

### **SUPPORTING WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES WA (WWD WA INC.)**

EDAC continues to support WWD WA by providing a venue for meetings and financial administration.



*Vivienne Pillay, Manager of Multicultural Women's Advocacy Service, Susanne Chance, Refugee and Migrant Health Nurse and Jenny Au Yeong, EDAC, at the International Women's Day Conference.*

## PROJECTS

### DISABILITY SERVICES STANDARDS TRAINING:

**Culturally Inclusive Disability Services - CaLD and Aboriginal Perspectives.**

Funded by: Disability Services Commission (DSC)

EDAC was contracted by DSC to provide training for DSC Service Providers using the resources developed by EDAC. The workshops were offered starting in November 2009 and expected to be completed by November 2010.

CaLD Presenters: Dolly Bhargava and Maranda Ali

The workshops cover cultural diversity in WA and concepts of disability and disability standards from cultural perspectives.

Aboriginal Presenters: Rhonda Murphy and Danny Ford.

The workshops cover Aboriginal Cultural Safety and examples of good practice within the disability services standards.

### SERVICE IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Funding was received from DSC to administer a small grants program. These grants are to assist disability service providers who have participated in culturally inclusive training to implement their plans to enhance service delivery to CaLD and Aboriginal clients

Sixteen projects were funded, nine for improvement of services for Aboriginal clients and seven for CaLD clients.

Projects ranged from Staff training, researching client needs, developing promotional material, reviewing of policies and procedures and community involvement.

All the projects are expected to be completed and acquitted by October 2010.

### ETHNICABILITY



*Sanja Vuksanovic and Zel Iscel,  
EthnicAbility broadcast team*

'EthnicAbility' continues to grow taking on a number of projects and covering many significant issues.

NEDA funded five programs where migrants with a disability were interviewed. This was part of the response to an Inquiry by the Joint Standing Committee on Migration (JSCOM) into the treatment of people with disability in the Australian migration system.

These programs demonstrated the important contributions that migrants with disability can provide to the Australian community.

The program is broadcast on Monday from 7:30-8:00 pm on 6EBA FM, 95.3 Mhz. It can also be accessed live via the internet at [www.6eba.com.au](http://www.6eba.com.au).

(Podcasts can be accessed at [www.edac.org.au](http://www.edac.org.au))

## ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

### STAFF TRAINING

EDAC has a commitment to ensure that staff are provided with continuous skills development.

Staff participated in nineteen professional development activities and attended seven national and state conferences. These included Transcultural mental health, human rights and social justice, ethics and quality assurance, International Women's Conference, National Disability Summit and National Advocacy Disability Conference.

### QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

#### Strategic Plan (2007-2010)

In late 2005, EDAC started a series of consultations to develop a three year Strategic Plan (2007-2009). All stakeholders were consulted and the process involved the re-examination of the Mission and Strategic Priorities for 2007-2009. Key Objectives were developed and accepted. An Action Plan was developed and implemented.



*Opening speech by Dr Ron Chalmers (DSC) at EDAC's Strategic Planning*

The Management Committee decided to extend the Plan to 2010 and initiated the development of the 2011- 2014 Strategic Plan.

### S14K Audit

DFaHCSIA conducted a five yearly audit in July-August 2009. EDAC received a favourable report with full compliance. Some areas for service improvement were noted and subsequently addressed.

### QUALITY CERTIFICATION TRIAL - National Disability Advocacy Program (NDAP)

EDAC was selected as one of 12 agencies to participate in the Trial. This required the agencies meeting the 24 KPIs in the NDAP Advocacy Disability Standards.

EDAC was externally audited by the International Standards Certifications Pty Ltd. We successfully met all the requirements. Areas for improvement were noted and addressed.



*Auditors James Bennett, Joe Sarkies, Vice-President Angelo Ciansiosi, Evaluator Jenny Pearson, Jenny Au Yeong CEO and Thuan Geh Administrator, EDAC.*

## TREASURER'S REPORT

It gives me pleasure to present the Financial Report and audited financial statements for 2009-2010 which detail the financial operations of EDAC.

This has been a busy year for EDAC, undertaking an increased number of projects as well as an increased load in the individual advocacy area especially with the establishment of a regional disability advocacy service based in Carnarvon. With income derived from the management of projects and efficient budgeting EDAC has completed the year with a slight surplus.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jenny Au Yeong and her staff for their kind assistance and outstanding work.

Further, I wish to acknowledge the following organisations for their ongoing financial support of EDAC core advocacy services and for project and training funding this year:

- Department of Family and Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- Disability Services Commission of Western Australia

For additional project funding:

- Mental Health Council of Australia
- Independent Living Centre

For ongoing 'in kind' provision of premises for EDAC:

- Lotterywest



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**Suresh Rajan**

**Treasurer**

**Date: 23/09/2010**

ETHNIC DISABILITY ADVOCACY CENTRE INC.

FINANCIAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
30 JUNE 2010

**ETHNIC DISABILITY ADVOCACY CENTRE INC.**

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010**

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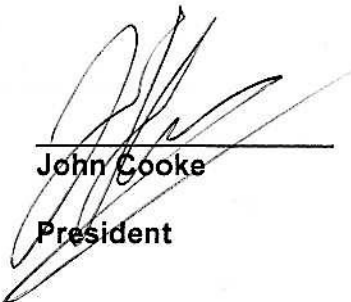
**ETHNIC DISABILITY ADVOCACY CENTRE INC.**  
**STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE**

The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

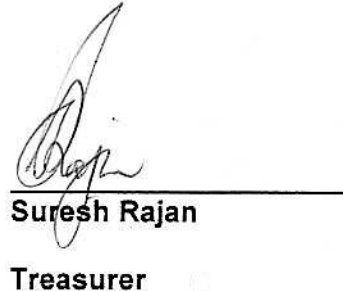
In the opinion of the committee the financial report as set out on pages 4 to 9:

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Ethnic Disability Advocacy Centre (Inc.) as at 30 June 2010 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
  
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Ethnic Disability Advocacy Centre (Inc.) will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

For and on behalf of the Ethnic Disability Advocacy Centre Inc.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**John Cooke**  
**President**

**Date: 23/09/2010**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Suresh Rajan**  
**Treasurer**

**Date: 23/09/2010**

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

### **TO THE MEMBERS OF: ETHNIC DISABILITY ADVOCACY CENTRE INC.**

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Ethnic Disability Advocacy Centre (Inc.), which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2010, and the income statement - summary, a summary of significant accounting policies, and the statement by members of the committee.

#### ***Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report***

The committee is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and has determined that the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, which form part of the financial report, are consistent with the financial reporting requirements and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members of the Ethnic Disability Advocacy Centre (Inc.). The committee's responsibilities also include establishing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

#### ***Auditor's Responsibility***

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, as described in Note 1, are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the centre, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members of Ethnic Disability Advocacy Centre (Inc.) for the purpose of fulfilling the committee's financial reporting under the Associations Incorporation Act 1987 of WA. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

### ***Independence***

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independent requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.


### ***Basis for Qualified Auditor's Opinion***

As is common for organisations of this type, it is not practicable for the Ethnic Disability Advocacy Centre (Inc.) to maintain an effective system of internal control over donations, subscriptions and other fund raising activities until their entry in the accounting records. Accordingly, our audit in relation to these activities was limited to the amounts recorded.

### ***Qualified Auditor's Opinion***

In our opinion, except for the effects of such adjustments, if any, as might have been determined to be necessary had the limitations discussed in the qualification paragraph not existed, the financial report of Ethnic Disability Advocacy Centre (Inc.) presents fairly, in all material respects the financial position of Ethnic Disability Advocacy Centre (Inc.) as at 30 June 2010 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, and the Associations Incorporation Act 1987 of WA.

  
MACRI PARTNERS  
CERTIFIED PRACTISING ACCOUNTANTS  
28 THOROGOOD STREET  
BURSWOOD WA 6100

  
A MACRI  
PARTNER

PERTH  
DATED THIS 23<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2010.

**ETHNIC DISABILITY ADVOCACY CENTRE INC.**

**BALANCE SHEET**

**AS AT 30 JUNE 2010**

	Note	2010 \$	2009 \$
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	2	383,935	299,859
Prepayments		9,087	9,737
Total current assets		393,022	309,596
<b>Non Current Assets</b>			
Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment	3	8,982	12,809
Total Non Current Assets		8,982	12,809
<b>Total Assets</b>		402,004	322,405
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Grants Received in Advance		178,515	120,951
Trade and Other Payables	4	23,614	20,023
Provisions	5	53,621	36,700
Total Current Liabilities		255,750	177,674
<b>Non Current Liabilities</b>			
Provisions	5	-	-
Building Maintenance Fund		3,677	5,186
Total Non Current Liabilities		3,677	5,186
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		259,427	182,860
<b>Net Assets</b>		142,577	139,545
<b>Equity</b>			
Retained Profits	6	142,577	139,545
<b>Total Equity</b>		142,577	139,545

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.

**ETHNIC DISABILITY ADVOCACY CENTRE INC.**

**INCOME STATEMENT - SUMMARY**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010**

	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Income	570,023	384,930
Expenditure	<u>566,991</u>	<u>375,752</u>
Profit/(Loss) for the Year	3,032	9,178
Retained Profits at the Beginning of the Financial Year	139,545	130,367
Retained Profits at the End of the Financial Year	<u>142,577</u>	<u>139,545</u>

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.

**ETHNIC DISABILITY ADVOCACY CENTRE INC.**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010**

**1. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**BASIS OF ACCOUNTING**

The financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1987 of WA. The committee has determined that Ethnic Disability Advocacy Centre Inc. is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1987 of WA and the following Australian Accounting Standards:

**AASB 1031: Materiality**

**AASB 110: Events after the Reporting Period**

**AASB 116: Property, Plant and Equipment**

No other applicable Accounting Standards, Australian Accounting Interpretations or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been applied.

The financial report has been prepared on an accrual basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuation of non-current assets.

The following material accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

**(a) PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT (PPE)**

The depreciable amount of all PPE is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the Ethnic Disability Advocacy Centre Inc. commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

**(b) INCOME TAX**

The association is exempt from Income Tax.

**ETHNIC DISABILITY ADVOCACY CENTRE INC.**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010**

<b>2. <u>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</u></b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Cash on Hand	500	200
Cash at Bank – Ethnic Disability Advocacy Centre	31,763	30,543
Cash at Bank – Building Maintenance Fund	3,677	5,186
Cash at Bank – TeleNet Saver	347,034	263,692
Cash at Bank – Women on Wellness	961	238
	<u>383,935</u>	<u>299,859</u>

**3. FURNITURE, FIXTURES & EQUIPMENT**

Office Equipment at Cost	38,114	58,675
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(29,366)	(46,234)
	<u>8,748</u>	<u>12,441</u>

Furniture & Fittings at Cost	8,345	8,345
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(8,111)	(7,977)
	<u>234</u>	<u>368</u>

<b>Total:</b>		
Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment at Cost	46,459	67,020
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(37,477)	(54,211)
	<u>8,982</u>	<u>12,809</u>

Asset purchases (office equipment) for the financial year amounted \$1,657.

**4. TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES**

Accrued Expenses	5,421	2,620
GST Liability	10,833	13,319
PAYG Withholding Payable	7,360	4,084
	<u>23,614</u>	<u>20,023</u>

**ETHNIC DISABILITY ADVOCACY CENTRE INC.**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010**

	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>3. <u>PROVISIONS</u></b>		
<b><u>Current</u></b>		
Provision for Annual Leave	20,118	11,246
Provision for Sick Leave	2,125	2,125
Provision for Superannuation	9,425	6,295
Provision for Long Service Leave	21,953	17,034
	<hr/> 53,621	<hr/> 36,700
<b><u>Non Current</u></b>		
Provision for Long Service Leave	-	-
	<hr/> -	<hr/> -
Total Provisions	<hr/> <b>53,621</b>	<hr/> <b>36,700</b>
<b>4. <u>RETAINED PROFITS</u></b>		
<b><u>Retained Profits - Operating</u></b>		
Opening Retained Profits	126,736	53,776
Profit/(Loss) for the Year	3,032	9,178
	<hr/> 129,768	<hr/> 62,954
Transfer from Retained Profits - Capital	-	63,782
Closing Retained Profits – Operating	<hr/> 129,768	<hr/> 126,736
<b><u>Retained Profits - Capital</u></b>		
Opening Retained Profits	12,809	76,591
Transfer to Retained Profits - Operating	-	(63,782)
	<hr/> 12,809	<hr/> 12,809
<b>Total Retained Profits</b>	<hr/> <b>142,577</b>	<hr/> <b>139,545</b>

**ETHNIC DISABILITY ADVOCACY CENTRE INC.**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED**  
**30 JUNE 2010**

**3. COMMITMENTS**

At 30 June 2010, no commitments exist.

**ETHNIC DISABILITY ADVOCACY CENTRE INC.**

**INCOME STATEMENT - DETAIL**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010**

	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		
<b>Grants and Projects</b>		
DFaHCSIA - Recurrent	129,552	125,884
DFaHCSIA - Project	101,964	44,554
DSC - Recurrent	162,937	84,905
DSC - Projects	137,344	53,206
Department of Education and Training	-	16,000
Lotterywest Vicinity Project	-	-
Mental Health Council	15,612	22,796
Other	950	7,764
<b>Total Grants Income</b>	<b>548,359</b>	<b>355,109</b>
Other Income	21,664	29,821
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>570,023</b>	<b>384,930</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
<b>Salaries &amp; Staff Costs:</b>		
Salaries & Contract Fees	221,726	170,008
Superannuation	19,450	15,492
Long Service Leave	6,905	3,323
Annual Leave	4,429	-
Travelling Allowances	1,128	1,217
Transport	2,652	323
Amenities	2,211	1,403
Worker's Compensation Insurance	1,654	1,605
Fringe Benefits Tax	-	-
Staff Training/Seminars	6,675	1,871
Conferences / Seminars	-	-
<b>Total Salaries &amp; Staff Costs</b>	<b>266,830</b>	<b>195,242</b>

**ETHNIC DISABILITY ADVOCACY CENTRE INC.**

**INCOME STATEMENT - DETAIL**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010**

	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
<b>Operational Costs:</b>		
Telephone	4,092	2,576
Printing, Postage, Stationery	3,965	665
Accountancy & Audit	2,950	2,700
Cleaning	3,698	3,539
Insurance	3,260	3,796
Computer, Internet Expenses	2,357	1,892
Electricity & Water	1,715	1,088
Meeting Expenses	1,200	452
Bank Fees	370	278
Interpreting / Translation	89	300
Membership Fees	1,230	92
Office Maintenance	(204)	165
Depreciation	5,484	5,580
Rate & Taxes	944	1,312
Advertising & Promotion	2,281	492
Hire Venue & Equipment	2,554	416
Resources	-	-
<b>Total Operational Expenditure</b>	<b>35,985</b>	<b>25,343</b>
<b>Total Project Expenditure</b>	<b>264,176</b>	<b>155,167</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>566,991</b>	<b>375,752</b>
<b>Profit / (Loss) for the Year</b>	<b>3,032</b>	<b>9,178</b>

**ETHNIC DISABILITY ADVOCACY CENTRE INC**

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ABN: 35913004810

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