



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **ECCWA welcomes dumping cap on self-education expenses**

The Ethnic Communities Council of Western Australia welcomes the Federal government's announcement to dump the cap of \$2000 on self-education expenses. Dr. Zarrin Siddiqui said "this is of vital importance for the newly arrived migrants who already have to undergo a lot of stress when their qualifications are not recognised by employers at par with Australian citizens. They are required to take professional development courses which require a lot of investment on their own part. With the removal of suggested cap this might ease their settlement process and facilitate entry into meaningful employment."

She continued "ECCWA will continue to advocate for better and improved living conditions for the migrant and ethnic communities. With the cessation of state funding it has been difficult for us, yet members have observed that we have become tougher, stronger and more resilient. We are exploring the best ways to move forward and the next three months will determine our future course of action."

Dr. Zarrin S Siddiqui is working as Associate Professor at the University of Western Australia and was elected as the President of ECCWA on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2013. Her Committee includes new and experienced members from a variety of ethnic and migrant groups including Rahim Ghauri (Senior Vice President), Andrea Creado (Vice President, Women), Abdul Aziz (Vice President, Youth) James Jegasothy (Secretary) and Kathy Ursich as the Treasurer.