

## Guidelines of Ethiopian-Australian Advocacy Committee (EAAC)

### Introduction

Under the auspices of the executive committee of Ethiopian Community Association Council in Australia (ECACIA), the **Ethiopian-Australian Advocacy Committee (EAAC)** has been established as a sub-committee to fulfil the objectives of the council. The initial five sub-committee members will be nominated by the Council. All activities to be carried by the sub-committee will also be abided by ECACIA's rules and regulations. However, to enhance its activities the following duties which were endorsed unanimously by nominated representatives of States/Territories associations will be used as its guide and rules. The **EAAC** will operate independently without any interference of States/Territories associations but it is directly accountable to the ECACIA.

### 1. Establishment

- 1.1. The committee is known as the **Ethiopian-Australian Advocacy Committee (EAAC)**
- 1.2. The **EAAC** is formed to implement the objectives of the Council as stated in its constitution.
- 1.3. The **EAAC's** official office will be in Canberra.

### 2. Duties

- 2.1. To facilitate communication between the Ethiopian-Australian community in Australia and the government of Australia at all levels.
- 2.2. To negotiate with government departments, governmental and non-governmental organizations on issues relevant to the interest of Ethiopian-Australian community.
- 2.3. To lobby the Federal, States/Territories and Local governments to provide space, facilities, financial and other necessary support for:
  - 2.3.1. Newly arrived Ethiopian immigrants
  - 2.3.2. Education (teaching of Ethiopian languages and culture)
  - 2.3.3. Religious matters
  - 2.3.4. Sport activities
  - 2.3.5. Cultural heritage and recreational activities
- 2.4. To inform the Australian government and people of the adverse impact of some of the policies and decisions of the Federal, States, Territories and Local governments on Ethiopian- Australians in Australia via:
  - 2.4.1. Submission of reports
  - 2.4.2. Organizing protest rallies around Australia in collaboration with the Council, States and Territories community Associations/Organizations'
  - 2.4.3. Issuing an open letter
  - 2.4.4. Media releases
  - 2.4.5. Meeting with political leaders, departmental, non-governmental organizations' representatives

- 2.5. To raise awareness of the status of Ethiopian refugees in different parts of Africa and appeal to the Australian government to accept more Ethiopian refugees.
- 2.6. To inform the Australian government and people, International Organizations, Diplomatic corps and Non-governmental organizations of the dire political and economic situation in Ethiopia via:
  - 2.6.1. Submission of reports
  - 2.6.2. Organizing protest rallies around Australia in collaboration with the Council, States and Territories community Associations/Organizations'
  - 2.6.3. Issuing open letters
  - 2.6.4. Media release
  - 2.6.5. Meeting with political leaders and other dignitaries
- 2.7. Collaborate with other lobbying groups in order to positively influence government decisions.
- 2.8. The **EAAC** members will form States and Territories Advisory Committee (S/T/AC) in every state and the two territories of Australia, when it is practical to do so.
- 2.9. In order to base its decisions on facts and disseminate credible and reliable information, as well as maintain its credibility and reliability, EAAC will have a research and development unit within its committee.
  - 2.9.1. The committee shall establish a subcommittee to carry out its research and development task.

### **3. Election of the committee members**

- 3.1. The committee will have five members
- 3.2. As the need arises, the number of EAAC members will increase up to 11 and the additional members shall be nominated by the existing EAAC members, Council or State and Territory Associations/Organisations.

### **4. Term of Office of the committee**

- 4.1. The term of office of EAAC members will be three years.

### **5. Office bearers**

- 5.1. **EAAC** will have five office bearers and other members:
  - 5.1.1. Chairperson
  - 5.1.2. Vice Chairperson
  - 5.1.3. Secretary
  - 5.1.4. Treasurer
  - 5.1.5. Public relations officer

## 6. Meeting

- 6.1. The **EAAC** will conduct its meetings through Tele and Video conferences and Pal talk as well as physical gatherings, depending on the circumstances, once every month or as appropriate.
- 6.2. A general meeting will be held once a year.
- 6.3. All decisions are made by majority vote.
- 6.4. The committee may, whenever it deems fit, convene a special general meeting.

## 7. Relations between the Council and States/Territories Community Associations/Organisations

- 7.1. The committee is directly accountable to ECACIA.
- 7.2. Ethiopian Community Associations in member States/Territories or their leadership have no authority on the **EAAC**. The Advocacy Committee remains as an independent committee in all its duties.
- 7.3. The **EAAC** is authorised to contact, discuss and make an agreement, if any, on behalf of the ECACIA with the Federal or States/Territories or Local government/s or with other NGOs to promote its case/cases.
- 7.4. The **EAAC** and the Council's Executive Committee members will have a joint meeting once every four months in order to discuss the achievements and endeavours of **EAAC** and other relevant matters.
- 7.5. If, for whatever reason ECACIA becomes incapacitated or unable to perform its duties, the **EAAC** will continue to function and perform its duties according to the guidelines.
- 7.6. If and when differences or conflict of interests or diversion from the objectives on which the **EAAC** is formed arises and cannot be resolved within the committee, then, and only then, ECACIA will intervene.
- 7.7. If the Council intervenes as in paragraph 7.6 above and the issue still cannot be resolved at a joint meeting of **EAAC** and ECACIA, the decision of ECACIA will be binding and the resolution of the **EAAC** will not be effective and ECACIA will follow procedures of ARTICLE 1 of its constitution.
- 7.8. Only ECACIA, based on sufficient grounds, can remove a member or members of the **EAAC** from office.

The above rules and regulation will be effective from 09 March 2008 and can be amended with the approval of two-third of the **EAAC** committee members.