

Ethnic Advisory Group *history*

In early 2002, the Board looked at options to encourage and strengthen client participation at a national strategic level. They consulted other organisations that had also worked to encourage client participation. After consultation, the Board decided to establish an interim National Advisory Group. The group was interim, as one of their initial tasks was to decide on the best long term structure for getting learners' voices heard in the organisation's decision-making.

The aims of the group were to

- encourage and strengthen learner participation in national decisions about our overall service direction and strategies
- facilitate community input into Board planning and policy development
- ensure that all national policy and English Language Partners' services effectively meet learner needs
- bring about a change in the ethnic composition of the association's governing body



Founding EAG members

Back row (from left): Kutu Mukherjee, Brenda Chan, Ahmed Yusuf Ali, Batu Gondol, Dr Abdul Nasser. Front row (from left): Hana Sabie, Patisepa Tagata.



In March 2002, centres were invited to nominate potential members for this group. The following people were the founding National Advisory Group members.

PARTICIPANT	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	NOMINATED CENTRE
Batu Gondol	Ethiopia	Auckland West
Hana Sabie	Iraq	Porirua
Ahmed Yusuf Ali	Ethiopia	Christchurch
Kutu Mukherjee	India	Tauranga
Patisepa Tagata	Tokelau	Taupo
Dr Abdul Nasser	Iraq	North Shore
Brenda Chan	China	Waikato

On 10 May 2002, the National Advisory Group had its first meeting at the national office. The group was renamed as the Ethnic Advisory Group (EAG) in 2004.

In 2004, Ahmed Yusuf Ali became the first EAG representative on the Board. Now a Board member also represents the Board on the EAG to strengthen the relationship with the governing body.

In 2012 the EAG celebrated a decade of contribution to the organisation.

Over the years the EAG has advised

- the Chief Executive
- organisational reviews and strategic planning
- a fundraising strategy

- ELPNZ's funding framework for centres
- a framework on learners' access to services (responsibilities framework)
- development of planning tools (eg. for advocacy, diversity and inclusion, quality standards)
- website development
- association research projects
- government agencies seeking a migrant and refugee perspective, and wanting to inform communities about their initiatives

They have also contributed to

- ELPLNZ conferences and meetings
- *Connecting Cultures* magazine

