

Australian Government celebrates FECCA partnership

The Australian Government has told a United Nations committee, meeting in Geneva, that the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) provides the Government with a "grass roots" link to multicultural Australia.

Appearing before the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Dr Lachlan Strahan, First Assistant Secretary in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, commenting on the Australian Government's funding of FECCA, said: "Engaging at both the advisory and grass roots levels ensures that multicultural policy is well-informed and robust."

Dr Strahan told the international representatives in Geneva that "FECCA is a very good partner to government."•

Ms Mary Patetsos, Chairperson of FECCA, said: "We welcome this recognition by the Australian Government of the central role of FECCA in representing the voices of culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) Australians."

Ms Patetsos continued: "FECCA has a positive and collaborative relationship with the Australian Government. FECCA always works to contribute to government policy in constructive ways to ensure CALD Australians can fully participate in Australian society."

"We are pleased that the Government has acknowledged that FECCA's advocacy helps to shape inclusive, equitable, and accessible government policy and services," she said.

FECCA is the national peak body representing Australians from CALD backgrounds. FECCA's role is to advocate and promote issues on behalf of its constituency to government, business and the broader community.

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