

FECCA applauds scrapping of parent visa cost hike

The Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) today applauded a Government decision to drop a proposal which would have dramatically increased the income requirement for people seeking to bring their parents to Australia.

"The Federal parliamentarians who opposed this proposal by the Government have acted with compassion and common sense," the Chairperson of FECCA, Mary Patetsos, said today.

"They listened to the people in their communities who were upset and outraged by this change to the *Assurance of Support* scheme.

"As a result, the Government will not proceed with the measure."

Ms Patetsos said that under the Government proposal an individual trying to sponsor their two parents would have needed to prove an income of \$86,606, up from \$35,793 under previous rules. Minimum income requirements would have increased by up to 188 per cent.

"There is no doubt that family reunion enhances successful settlement, promotes social cohesion and drives economic prosperity. These changes would have affected all family reunions, regardless of place of origin, with the additional costs imposing a heavy financial impact on Australian families"

Ms Patetsos said that earlier this week, FECCA had written to the Minister for Social Services, Hon. Dan Tehan, requesting that the proposal be dropped.

"We are pleased that the Minister has listened to FECCA and communities across Australia and made the decision not to proceed with the proposal," Ms Patetsos said.

FECCA is the national peak body representing Australians from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds. Our role is to advocate and promote issues on behalf of our constituency to government, business and the broader community.

Contact: 0403 044 216 / emma@fecca.org.au