

# FECCA calls for continued funding to enhance access and equity for culturally and linguistically diverse Australians

The Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) has submitted its budget priorities to the Treasury as part of the pre-budget process.

Chairperson of FECCA, Joe Caputo said: 'FECCA's budget priorities will support equity and access to Government services and increasing opportunities for CALD Australians to fully participate in the Australian economy and society.'

'FECCA believes that the budget must include measures to protect Australia's productive and harmonious multicultural society. FECCA welcomes the opportunity to participate in the budget process,' continued Mr Caputo.

FECCA has submitted a comprehensive list of proposals regarding Government funding priorities in 2017-18. These include the following recommendations:

Provide appropriate resources to the SBS to support its distinctive and unique role

1. Support CALD young people find a pathway to work
2. Continue to bridge gaps in equity and access to Government services
3. Continue to promote the policy of Multiculturalism
4. Prioritise actions focusing on migrant women in the Third Action Plan of the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children
5. Establish a dedicated grants fund to support the implementation of the National Diversity Framework for Ageing and Aged Care
6. Ensure sufficient funding to multicultural sector organisations to empower and strengthen the capacity of CALD communities to participate in the NDIS
7. Provide targeted funding for a national multicultural mental health structure that would ensure mental health reforms achieve positive outcomes for CALD individuals and communities; and
8. Fund a one year program of an interpreter training and accreditation model to increase the supply of trained and credentialed interpreters in new and emerging community languages.

FECCA is the national peak body representing Australians from culturally and linguistically diverse 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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