

# FECCA Celebrates Australian Citizenship Day

The Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) said that Australian Citizenship Day, celebrated today, was an opportunity for the nation to applaud the achievements of our multicultural society.

The Chairperson of FECCA, Mary Patetsos, congratulated the 1700 people who had today become Australian citizens at 60 ceremonies across the nation.

"The granting of Australian citizenship is symbolic of acceptance into the Australian community," Ms Patetsos said. "Australian citizenship is cherished by everyone in Australia's migrant communities."

Ms Patetsos said that for decades, political leaders from both sides had committed to Australia's multicultural society, which has delivered huge social and economic benefits to the nation.

"Fair, transparent and timely access to Australian citizenship is essential to the social cohesion and harmony of Australian society.

"Australian residents want nothing more than to be full participants in our society.

"We urge all of our political leaders to ensure the continuation of a system where citizenship is not denied to our new arrivals because of arbitrary and unfair procedures or by extended waiting periods," 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.

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