

FECCA deeply concerned by report on refugees

The Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) today expressed deep concern at the findings of a joint report by the Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA) and the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC).

The Chairperson of FECCA, Mary Patetsos said: "As the peak body representing people of culturally and linguistically diverse background, FECCA understands the importance of a humane and just immigration policy.

"FECCA is alarmed by reports that children with life-threatening illnesses are being prevented from travelling to Australia to receive much needed medical care, despite expert advice from doctors.

"While FECCA accepts the need for a transparent and consistent immigration policy, those policies must be implemented in a way that protects the most vulnerable.

"We feel obliged to speak out when our immigration policies are failing desperately ill children and their families. The discretionary powers available to the Government should be used to ensure critically ill children in offshore detention get access to essential medical treatment in Australia. It is also important that families are kept safe—and together," Ms Patetsos said.

Ms Patetsos said that the Government should examine the findings of the report and ensure that Australia's immigration policy is non-discriminatory, fair and transparent and serves Australia's national interests.

The RCOA-ASRC joint report is available [here](#).

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