

FECCA urges attendance at maternity services workshops

The Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) today urged organisations representing culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) women to attend the Federal Government's consultation workshops aimed at developing a *National Strategic Approach to Maternity Services (NSAMS)*.

The Chairperson of FECCA, Ms Mary Patetsos said that FECCA had long advocated on women's health issues on behalf of CALD Australians.

"FECCA believes that all Australian women should be able to access culturally safe maternity services in their preferred language," she said.

Ms Patetsos said that FECCA, which is a member of the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council, has called for a Culturally Competent Maternity Plan for CALD Women, which should include:

- Language services;
- Bilingual and bicultural workers;
- Cultural competency training for staff; and
- Culturally-appropriate antenatal surveys of risk factors.

"The workshops now being held around Australia give organisations representing CALD Australians a great opportunity to have their say about the way maternity services should be provided to women in their communities," Ms Patetsos said.

Places are still available in workshops to be held at:

- Campbelltown, Tasmania (21 May)
- Dubbo, NSW (23 May)
- Tweed Heads, NSW (25 May)
- Alice Springs, NT (4 June)

More information on the workshops is available [here](#). FECCA's submission can be found [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.

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