

# FECCA welcomes Aged Royal Commission Terms of Reference

The Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) has welcomed the terms of reference of the Royal Commission into Aged Care that include references to the diversity of Australia's older population.

Ms Patetsos also said that she was pleased that the terms of reference identified dignity, choice and control as indicators of aged care.

“It can be difficult to exercise choice and maintain your dignity if English is not your first language or you are not in an environment that is culturally safe and respectful.

“Having services delivered that are culturally appropriate and in your preferred language is your right as an Australian. Australians of migrant background, who have contributed hugely to the building of this nation, deserve care that meets their needs in their old age.”

The Chairperson of FECCA, Mary Patetsos, said today that many Australians from a migrant background often felt isolated and found it difficult to navigate the aged care system.

“We often see older people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds falling through the gaps in care and not receiving the services they need.

“They are also very vulnerable to the kinds of neglect and abuse that we have recently witnessed in media reports,” Ms Patetsos said.

Ms Patetsos emphasised the importance of establishing systems and processes, including the appointment of CALD-specific organisations, that can support CALD Australians to participate in the Royal Commission

“CALD older people also need to be given encouragement and support through channels they trust, so that they come forward to share their experiences of the aged care system.

Ms Patetsos also welcomed the inclusion of the aged care workforce and Australians living with dementia, including younger people who find themselves in residential care, in the Terms of Reference and said that FECCA looked forward to contributing to the Royal Commission and supporting the Commissioners in their important endeavour.

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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