

FECCA welcomes release of CALD disability strategy

The Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) today welcomed the release by the National Disability Insurance Agency of its *Cultural and Linguistic Diverse Strategy 2018* but emphasised that it could succeed only if properly funded by Government.

The Chairperson of FECCA, Ms Mary Patetsos, said that the long-awaited release of the strategy was an important step forward in ensuring that people of CALD background had full and equal access to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

“FECCA has been working closely with the NDIA on developing this strategy, given that people with disability from a CALD background face particular challenges in accessing the NDIS,” Ms Patetsos said.

“More than a quarter of Australians were born overseas. Yet CALD Australians remain under-represented in those accessing disability services under the NDIS.”

Ms Patetsos said that the strategy released today needed to be backed up by adequate and appropriate resources.

“The NDIS should be made more accessible to people of CALD background, who should be aware of what it offers and have confidence that it can meet their needs.

“The strategy recognises that the NDIS needs to develop sophisticated, targeted data collection as well as skills in cultural competency, in order to engage with people of culturally and diverse background.

“Put simply, Australians of CALD background deserve a fair go—equal access to the NDIS and culturally competent services. We are pleased to see the release of the strategy but the Federal Government will need to ensure that appropriate funds are provided to make it a success,” Ms Patetsos said.

The *Cultural and Linguistic Diverse Strategy 2018* 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.

Contact: 0403 044 216 / emma@fecca.org.au