

Greens multicultural policy announcement welcomed

The Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) welcomes the announcement by the Australian Greens of their [multicultural policy](#).

The policy covers a number of areas including a National Multicultural Act, diversity in the workplace, legal protections against racial vilification, the humanitarian intake, the migration regulations as they relate to support for women escaping violence, data collection about mental health needs of people from multicultural communities to better inform service planning, increasing access to early childhood education for migrant and refugee children, specialist family violence services for migrant and refugee women, funding the SBS, and initiatives to support social cohesion (such as an Australian Centre for Social Cohesion and the Building Multicultural Communities Program).

Adopting policies that respond to Australia's diversity is critical to foster the economic and social contributions of migrant and refugees. Cultural, linguistic and religious characteristics require specific, inclusive and targeted programs that promote citizenship, access, equity and participation, and ensure no one is excluded and left behind. FECCA particularly welcomes the commitment to take steps towards establishing a National Multicultural Act. A national legislative framework would ensure systemic change by achieving both recognition of diverse cultures coexisting in Australia, and promotion of close interaction between diverse cultures based on principles of reciprocal respect and equality.

"FECCA has been seeking assurances from all parties about their commitment to multiculturalism through actions that drive change for culturally and linguistically diverse communities", said FECCA Chairperson Joe Caputo. "We look forward to engaging further with the Australian Greens to progress these important policy initiatives".

Media comments: FECCA Office – (02) 6282 5755, admin@fecca.org.au.