

National compact on permanent migration

The Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) said today that the [National Compact on Permanent Migration](#) represented a major step forward in consolidating the importance of migration to Australian society and its economy.

The [Compact](#), signed by employer groups, unions and representatives of Australia's many multicultural communities, calls for the maintenance of Australia's permanent migration intake.

The Chairperson of FECCA, Mary Patetsos, said: "This is historic. We are joining with business, unions and everybody who recognises the immense importance of migration to Australia and its continuing prosperity.

"With the other signatories, we support the current permanent intake, its non-discriminatory operation and the rights of migrants to live and pursue life in their new land free of racism, discrimination and exploitation."

Ms Patetsos said that migrants brought knowledge, skills and social capital to build Australia's economy.

"The diversity, energy and entrepreneurship of migrants delivers invaluable economic resources to our nation. This has been recognized, emphatically, in a recent report by the Federal Government. Today's *Compact* of business, unions and representatives of culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) Australia is an important step in addressing recent negative public debate around migration," she said.

"FECCA is proud to have stood firmly against recent attempts to change hate speech laws, against proposed unfair changes to support for migrants and against attempts to unfairly deny access to citizenship.

"All members of the *Compact* strongly endorse the rights of migrants to equal participation in Australian society," Ms Patetsos said.

The Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) is the national peak body representing Australia's culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities and their organisations. Our role is to advocate and promote issues on behalf of our constituency to government, business and the wider community.

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