

Queensland voters reject Pauline Hanson Agenda

Queensland voters have comprehensively rejected the racist agenda of One Nation and its backers in yesterday's State election.

The Chairperson of the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Council of Australia, Mary Patetsos, said today that counting trends indicated that Pauline Hanson's party was struggling to make gains, despite her hopes that it would win as many as 11 seats.

"Queensland voters have rejected the divisive, negative and racist policies of One Nation and its negative, fearmongering backers," Ms Patetsos said.

"Even their State leader lost his seat."

She said that voters had refused to accept the arguments against immigration put by One Nation – assisted by major Pauline Hanson supporter, millionaire businessman Dick Smith.

Dick Smith spent huge amounts of money on newspaper ads in the last week of the campaign, arguing for a halt to Australia's immigration program and calling for a vote for One Nation.

"These tactics failed miserably. The people of Australia are not mean-spirited and fearful as One Nation and its supporters want them to be."

"Australia is built on a long-standing bipartisan policy of multiculturalism which embraces the benefits of immigration – economic, social and cultural."

"FECCA congratulates Queensland voters for rejecting the simplistic, negative and racist policies of One Nation,"• Ms Patetsos said.

FECCA is the national peak body representing Australians from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. FECCA's role is to advocate and promote issues on behalf of its constituency to government, business and the broader community.

Media contact: (0424) 910617 / emma@fecca.org.au