

# FECCAe-NEWS

The Newsletter of the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia

## WELCOME TO THE SEPTEMBER EDITION OF FECCA'S E-NEWS

Message from Chairperson, Joe Caputo OAM JP



Welcome to our September edition of FECCA's e-News.

I am delighted to be back from my holiday and to once more take on the important duties as the Chair as we fast approach the 2017 FECCA Conference. I am also delighted to present this month's e-News with an overview of FECCA's latest activities.

FECCA is busy planning and preparing for our biennial conference in Darwin, NT, 8-10 October, titled *Celebrate. Reflect. Advance: Our Multicultural Australia*. I am very excited about this event which will involve participants from across Australia including Senator the Hon Zed Seselja, the Hon Tony Burke, Senator Richard Di Natale, Dr Tim Soutphommasane, Kate Carnell AO, Nipuni and Gayana Wijewickrema, and Jenevieve Chang.

We encourage you to register before it is too late so that you can be part of the conference and have the opportunity to discuss your ideas on multiculturalism, develop networks and be part of a national debate on all issues impacting on the culturally and linguistically diverse Australian community. Some of the special events are already booked out and places are filling fast.

The FECCA secretariat has made a number of submissions recently and we have seen an increase in invitations to appear before Parliamentary Committees to represent the views of CALD Australians. Over the past few weeks the FECCA secretariat has given evidence to a range of Committee Hearings, including the proposed Citizenship Amendments, School to Work Transition, and Settlement Outcomes. All the submissions made to these inquiries and others can be found on our [website](#).

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# WELCOME TO THE SEPTEMBER EDITION OF FECCA'S E-NEWS *continued*

This month, FECCA called on the Government to ensure diverse voices are heard in the postal vote on marriage equality. The Government, through the Australian Electoral Commission and the Australian Bureau of Statistics, must ensure that Australians of all backgrounds are included in the electoral roll and are fully informed of the vote process. This must be a priority for the Government to prevent the disenfranchisement of individuals from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, regardless of how they vote.

FECCA also applauded the strong stand taken by the Leader of the Government in the Senate and Attorney-General, Senator The Honourable George Brandis QC in the response to the offensive actions by Senator Pauline Hanson in the Senate.

FECCA's work is as necessary as ever in protecting Australia's multicultural society and traditions and ensuring the equality of Australians regardless of their background. Part of this work includes protecting all migrants, refugees and asylum seekers to Australia. In August, FECCA posted a statement calling on the Government to reconsider its decision to compel refugees seeking asylum who came to Australia for

medical treatment, to return to Nauru of Manus Island by cutting their support payments. FECCA is very concerned about the situation on Manus Island and Nauru. We do not believe that it is in Australia's best interests to move these vulnerable people offshore but rather we should stand by our moral and international obligations and give refugees the right to be resettled.

Again FECCA recommends that all of our communities make their voices heard by making submissions on matters of concern for the many migrant and ethnic communities in Australia. FECCA is more than happy to offer support or advice in the process. Please **contact FECCA** if you require assistance.

I wish you the best for the coming month and assure you that at FECCA we will continue to advocate on behalf of Australia's diverse communities. I hope to see you all at the FECCA Conference.

**Joe Caputo OAM JP**  
Chairperson

**Federation of Ethnic Communities'  
Councils of Australia (FECCA)**

# FECCA NEWS

## FECCA Conference 2017

**Celebrate. Reflect. Advance:**  
**Challenges and Possibilities for Multicultural Australia**



**FECCA 2017**  
8-10 October 2017 | Darwin  
**Celebrate. Reflect. Advance:**  
Our Multicultural Australia

The FECCA 2017 Conference will bring together an array of community leaders, advocates, stakeholders and service providers along with culturally and linguistically diverse Australians from across the country.

The FECCA Conference will include rich variety of panels, workshops, speakers and debates to discuss the experiences of women, older people, communities living in rural and regional areas, people with disability and new and emerging communities.

Don't miss this exciting opportunity to be part of the evolving Multicultural Australia

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A reminder that the dates for our biennial FECCA conference are getting closer. It is going to be an exciting event with debates and discussions covering a wide range of topics, including aging, business, digital inclusion, racism and language, together with other issues impacting on the CALD population in Australia. There will be exciting panels on themes relating to multiculturalism and

Australia today. Examples of the panels are: a plenary session on the importance of storytelling in healing and building connections, a plenary panel discussion on contemporary multiculturalism, and a plenary session on stories from the 2016 Census of Population and Housing.

For registration to the conference [click here](#)

# FECCA NEWS

## Youth Day

For more information on the Youth Day and to see a program, [click here](#).

For queries or for clarification of anything relating to the FECCA Conference or Youth Day, please contact the FECCA Secretariat, Dr Alia Imtoul, on 02 6282 5755 or at [alia@fecca.org.au](mailto:alia@fecca.org.au)



**FECCA2017**  
8-10 October 2017 | Darwin  
Celebrate. Reflect. Advance:  
Our Multicultural Australia

**YOUTH DAY - 8 OCTOBER 2017**  
*Celebrate. Reflect. Advance:*  
*Challenges and Possibilities for Multicultural Australia*  
[www.fecca2017.com.au](http://www.fecca2017.com.au)

FECCA are pleased to present the first ever FECCA Youth Day as part of the main Conference Program. The Youth Day has been designed to address multicultural and community issues from a youth perspective. On the day you will hear from our youth as well as those working closely with young people in our society.

FECCA is keen to include as many young people as possible and have scholarship opportunities available to attend Youth day. If you are interested in the Scholarships or wish to discuss other opportunities to attend please contact us.

**Contact Us**  
Phone: + 612 9436 0232  
Email: [fecca2017@conceptevents.com.au](mailto:fecca2017@conceptevents.com.au)

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**Master of Ceremonies - Patrick Abboud**  
Patrick is an award-winning storyteller, documentary filmmaker and broadcaster. Currently the senior investigative reporter/ presenter on SBS VICELAND's nightly program *The Feed*, Pat is passionate about uncovering stories you never knew existed.

**Alipate Carlile** is a retired players who now works as Multicultural Programs Manager at Port Adelaide Football Club.

**Jenevieve Chang** is a writer, performing artist and movement director with a career spanning Australia, the UK and China.

 @ifecca  [www.facebook.com/ifecca](http://www.facebook.com/ifecca)

## FECCA makes submission into the Future Reform—an integrated care at home program to support older Australians

In this submission, FECCA expressed concern in areas including:

- the importance of taking into account the needs of older people from CALD backgrounds when discussing consumer directed care (CDC)
- the right of the consumer to engage a provider of choice
- service providers' capacity to cater for diverse clients or deliver culturally appropriate service.

[Click here](#) to see the full submission.

# FECCA NEWS

## FECCA makes submission into the Black Economy Taskforce

In this submission, FECCA stressed the importance of investigating the causes—or pushes—that lead individuals to becoming engaged with the black economy. Migrants and refugees in Australia face a number of barriers in the employment market due to a lack of Australian work experience, difficulties in achieving recognition of overseas qualifications, racism

and discrimination, and limited professional and social networks. FECCA encouraged the Government to show understanding of the circumstances that lead vulnerable people to become involved in the black economy in an effort to remedy these challenges and create accessible opportunities for CALD Australians. [Click here](#) to see the full submission.

## FECCA gives evidence to the Joint Standing Committee on Migration—Settlement Outcomes

On 16 August, 2017, FECCA gave evidence to the Joint Standing Committee on Migration—Settlement Outcomes. Based on the submission into Migrant Settlement Outcomes, FECCA's representatives, Dr Emma Campbell and Dr Alia Imtoul, emphasised that when it comes to settlement in Australia, priority should be given to maintaining arrangements which provide specialist organisations with the flexibility required to adapt to the unique challenges experienced by the diverse range of communities settling in Australia.

To read the full submission, [click here](#).



# FECCA NEWS

## FECCA gives evidence before the Senate on the Citizenship Legislation Amendment (Strengthening the Requirements for Australian Citizenship and Other Measures) Bill 2017

On 24 August, FECCA gave evidence in front of the Senate on the proposed citizenship amendments. The FECCA secretariat, represented by Dr Emma Campbell and Dr Alia Imtoul, strongly opposed the introduction of the legislation because it will dramatically change the rules determining qualification for Australian citizenship. FECCA upheld that the Bill will create a permanent underclass of Australian residents who will be denied

the rights and opportunities of being welcomed and included as Australian citizens. Many elements of this legislation have a disproportionate and negative impact upon vulnerable humanitarian entrants and their families who may have suffered significant trauma and already face many barriers and challenges to their lives in Australia. This submission was featured on SBS News. To read the full submission, [click here](#).



## FECCA welcomes the recommendations from the Select Committee on Strengthening Multiculturalism

In August, FECCA welcomed the Select Committee recommendations on strengthening multiculturalism. These recommendations will help to support and

promote understanding, acceptance, cohesion and respect in our Multicultural Australia. [Click here](#) to see the full report and [here](#) to read FECCA's media release.

## FECCA to appear before Parliamentary Committees and Inquiries

FECCA secretariat also appeared before Parliamentary Committees and Inquiries on the following inquiries:

- Penalty Rates Committee Inquiry ([click here](#) for submission)
- Payment Integrity Bill Inquiry ([click here](#) for submission)
- Transition to Work inquiry ([click here](#) for submission)

# STAKEHOLDER UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES

## Australian Bureau of Statistics

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is surveying all Australians on the Commonwealth Electoral Roll to get their views about whether the law should be changed to allow same sex marriage. This is a voluntary survey. However the ABS would like every eligible Australian to have an opportunity to participate and have their say. While it is expected that most eligible people in Australia will be able to participate using the postal service, the ABS will implement a number of additional strategies for people who may not be able to complete a postal survey.

Persons who are from culturally and linguistically diverse communities may complete the survey independently through the postal service, by requesting the assistance of someone they trust or through the support of Translating and Interpreting Services (TIS). This can be arranged by calling TIS National on 131 450 (within Australia) or +613 9268 8332 (Outside Australia).

For more information on the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey, visit the [ABS website](#) or contact the Information Line on 1800 572 113, available 7 days a week, 8am - 8pm (local time).



## Settlement and Multicultural e-News

The Department of Social Services' newsletter aims to provide information on settlement and multicultural policy/services updates as well as information on a range of matters that may be of interest to the community. Issue 8, August 2017, is now available and

include information on issues such as the Harmony Art Collective—a DSS, SBS and aMBUSH Gallery collaboration that saw the creation of art pieces exploring themes of individuality, belonging and cultural pride. To read the full newsletter, [click here](#).



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Social Services**



**Settlement and Multicultural e-News**

# STAKEHOLDER UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES

## The Financial Ombudsman Service

The Financial Ombudsman Service offers free, fair and independent dispute resolution assistance to consumers who are unable to resolve complaints with businesses that provide financial services. They also offer free interpreting services for people whose first language is not English and who would like to communicate in their own language.

For more information, [see here](#).



## Multicultural Youth (MY) Australia

Multicultural Youth (MY) Australia would like you to take part in the first ever multicultural youth census. While twenty-five percent of Australia's young people come from migrant and refugee backgrounds, very little is known about how they are faring. MY Australia, a research partnership between nine organisations, is addressing this gap. The MY Australia Census is open to young people from multicultural backgrounds, aged between 15 to 25 years, who live in Australia. The census

is an online survey that takes 20 minutes to complete. To read more, [click here](#) and to take the survey, [click here](#). The survey closes on 15 October 2017.



## South Western Sydney Local Health District

South Western Sydney Local Health District has produced a video to support the Arabic speaking community in having an important conversation about organ and tissue donation. The video contains six chapters with individual stories related to organ and tissue donation. Forty per cent of Arabic speaking people in NSW reside in south western Sydney and almost nine per cent of the District speaks Arabic as a first language at home. Religious and cultural

issues can be barriers against organ donation. Therefore, the South Western Sydney Local Health District have made it a priority to provide culturally appropriate information to support the Arabic speaking community to discuss this with their loved ones. In the video, families, faith leaders, community representatives and medical practitioners speak about their experiences and views on organ donation. To check out the video, [click here](#).



Health  
NSW Organ & Tissue  
Donation Service

Incorporating:  
NSW Bone Bank  
Lions NSW Eye Bank  
Australian Ocular Biobank

Part of the  
DonateLife  
network



# STAKEHOLDER UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES

## Women of the World Festival

The first ever Women of the World Festival celebrating women of the Commonwealth will be held in Brisbane in 2018 as part of the arts and cultural program of the Commonwealth Games. Women of the World was launched in 2010 by Jude Kelly CBE, Artistic Director of Southbank Centre London, to mark the centenary of International Women's Day. A major global festival that celebrates women and girls and looks at the obstacles they face, there have now been

over 20 festivals across 5 continents—over a million women and girls, and boys and men have taken part. You can view footage from the 2017 Festival in London [here](#). If your organisation is interested in participating in the Brisbane festival, please contact [Tanya Green](#) directly.



## Modernising Business Registers

The government has opened consultation on ways to modernise business registers as part of the National Business Simplification Initiative and are encouraging stakeholders to provide their views on all aspects of the operation of business registries including the user experience, opportunities to deliver improved business services, open data, accessibility, technology, governance and legislation. [Click here](#) for a media release on the matter and [here](#) for a discussion paper with background

information and FAQ'. You can also read more on the Treasury website ([www.treasury.gov.au](http://www.treasury.gov.au)). You are invited to consider ways to improve business registry services and you or the organisation you represent are encouraged to make a submission [here](#).



**Australian Government**  
**The Treasury**

## Child care fee assistance is changing

From 2 July 2018, Australia will have a new child care package. This means that Child Care Subsidy will replace the existing Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate. The Child Care Subsidy will be supported by a Child Care Safety Net which aims to give the most vulnerable children a strong start, while supporting parents into work. A new Child Care IT system will provide a simple and easy to use interface for families and child care services. The new integrated Child Care IT System will support the new [child care package](#) and is being developed collaboratively by the Departments of Education and Training, Human Services, and Social Services. Families will be able to use the integrated Child Care IT System from July 2018 to interact with Government through the Families Portal. [Click here](#) for more information on the new child care package and [here](#) for information on the Child Care IT System.



# STAKEHOLDER UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES

## Translation and Interpreting Services (TIS) processes for NDIS participants

The revised Translation and Interpreting Services (TIS) processes for NDIS participants are now operational. This is an exceptionally significant outcome for NDIS participants who have English as a Second Language (ESL). The TIS services will be available for participants to access funded support in the NDIS plan. Practice guidance about assisting communication has been provided to Agency staff and Partners in the Community. This practice guide will also be supplemented with a further internal communications and training to strengthen Agency staff in their understanding of the needs of people from a CALD background. There is also

an improved integration of CALD considerations into the participant pathway—specifically with NDIA Staff, Local Area Coordination or Support Coordination to assist participants who have English as a second language. [Click here](#) for TIS Fact Sheets and more information.

The NDIS also celebrated a major milestone in August 2017: 100,000 Australians with disability now have choice and control over life-changing support delivered through the scheme. [Click here](#) for more NDIS news.



## Domestic Violence in Faith Based Multicultural Communities Symposium 2017.

The Centre for Islamic Thought & Education, University of South Australia invites you to the Domestic Violence in Faith Based Multicultural Communities Symposium 2017. The first one-day domestic violence symposium explores an array of issues surrounding domestic violence in faith/spiritual multicultural communities

in the Australian context, and responses to address the needs of the communities. The symposium will find place on Monday 23 October in Adelaide, South Australia. Deadline for abstracts submission is on September 14. [Click here](#) for more information or contact [Dr Nada Ibrahim](#).

## Centre for Islamic Thought and Education

*The long-standing historical presence of Muslims in Australia speaks volumes about the spirit of interconnectedness that inspires the Centre for Islamic Thought and Education (CITE).*

## World Mental Health Day

This year's national World Mental Health Day is set for October 10 and the campaign is already under planning. A website has been created for organisations to add events to be held on the day, download an event kit, access a list of partners and a Partner Pack, which contains a range of ready-made content, materials and information about the promotional tools, channels and

activities that will form the campaign. [Click here](#) for more information and to be part of the [Mental Health Promise](#) initiative.

**OCT 10**  
WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

Mental Health  
Australia

# STAKEHOLDER UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES

## Canberra Academy of Languages

The Canberra Academy of Languages (CAL) is a not-for-profit organisation that aims to expand opportunities for language learning in the Canberra region. The programs are for year 11-12 students who have committed to learning languages with access to courses that are not available in their day schools or home schools. CAL will be holding information about their 2018 programs on the following date:

- Thursday 14 September 2017, 6pm, at Canberra Museum and Gallery, Civic

For more details see <http://www.cal.act.edu.au/> or email [frank.keighley@cal.act.edu.au](mailto:frank.keighley@cal.act.edu.au)



## Our Watch—End Violence against Women and Their Children

Our Watch—End Violence against Women and Their Children—has developed a new set of resources in partnership with the Domestic Violence Recourse Centre Victoria. The free [Know your A-Z posters](#) offers 26 ways everybody can help challenge harmful stereotypes, promote respect and prevent violence. [Click here](#) to read more.



## National Firearms Amnesty update: over 12,500 firearms handed-in so far

Australia's first National Firearms Amnesty aimed at reducing the number of unregistered firearms in our community runs from 1 July to 30 September 2017. In the first month of the National Firearms Amnesty, more than 12,500 firearms were surrendered across Australia—that's an average of 400 firearms handed in every day.

There are now over 12,500 fewer firearms in our communities that are at risk of ending up in the wrong hands. The Amnesty allows anyone with an unwanted and unregistered firearm or firearm-related items to

legally dispose of or register them at [approved drop-off points](#) in each state and territory. For more information, [click here](#).

