

# NCAN News

The National CALD Ageing Network Newsletter - May/June 2013



Join the National CALD Ageing Network (NCAN). [Click here](#) to register online.



Would you like to contribute to the next edition of NCAN News? See [page 3](#) to find out how.

## Welcome from the FECCA Chair



It is my pleasure to welcome you to the first edition of the NCAN News, a bimonthly e-newsletter that will bring together news, ideas and opinions from the CALD ageing sector around Australia.

I encourage you to take advantage of this new information source by contributing to future editions. We are keen to publish contributions from stakeholders, including your opinions on particular policy issues and news about new initiatives.

In this first edition you will find updates on FECCA's recent aged care activities and a report on the recent launch of the National CALD Ageing Network by the Minister for Health and Ageing, the Hon Mark Butler MP, in Melbourne.

Pino Migliorino

Chair, Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA)

## The National CALD Ageing Network- next steps

The National CALD Ageing Network, or NCAN, is a web-based communication network that has been designed for all stakeholders who are involved in the CALD ageing sector.

Over time as our networks grow and interconnect we envisage that NCAN will become an important capacity building mechanism; part of the exciting possibilities offered by the aged care reforms.

Importantly, a communication tool like NCAN will allow equitable access to knowledge that is vital in serving the diverse needs of ageing CALD Australians and voices in the health and aged care sectors.

NCAN is still a work in progress, and we hope you will be patient and contribute your ideas about NCAN's direction as it develops.

FECCA has been using NCAN to circulate brief newsletters with important information from the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing on issues like closing dates for submissions for grants. This is the first edition of what will become a bimonthly news bulletin about CALD aged care issues.

This news bulletin will provide regular updates on policy and issues relevant to CALD ageing and aged care and notices about upcoming opportunities such as the opening of grant applications. It will also provide an avenue to facilitate dialogue on CALD ageing issues, and opinion pieces will be invited from members. See [page 3](#) for more information on how you can contribute.

An NCAN website is also currently under development and will be launched soon. We anticipate that this will provide a further channel of communication for NCAN members.

We want NCAN to be a key voice representing the needs and experiences of the older CALD community and for its members to feel empowered and able to be heard.

NCAN will be an important tool in contributing to implementing the Government's *National CALD Ageing and Aged Care Strategy for People from CALD Backgrounds*. As the NCAN membership grows, we hope that our collective efforts will feed into the Strategy and be seen as a valuable contribution to the aged care reforms.



L-R: Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria (ECCV) Chairperson Joseph Caputo, the Minister for Mental Health and Ageing, the Hon Mark Butler MP, ECCV Deputy Chairperson Marion Lau OAM, FECCA Chair Pino Migliorino, and FECCA Honorary President and CEO of the Australian Greek Welfare Society Voula Messimeri AM.

# NCAN OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED BY MINISTER

The Minister for Mental Health and Ageing, the Hon. Mark Butler MP formally launched the National Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Ageing Network (NCAN) on Thursday 11 April 2013 at the Australian Greek Welfare Society (AGWS) Hall in Brunswick, Melbourne.

Over sixty guests enjoyed lively and positive speeches by Minister Butler, as well as from the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) Chair Pino Migliorino and Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria Chair Joe Caputo. FECCA's Hon. President and AGWS CEO Voula Messimeri brought it together as Master of Ceremonies.

Mr Butler stressed the vital importance to Australia of the aged care reforms, and of the necessity of the reforms recognising and incorporating measures to ensure that elderly people from CALD backgrounds have equal access to quality aged care. The NCAN network will help ensure that elderly people from CALD backgrounds also have the ability to become involved in aged care policy and grant communications.

Mr Butler welcomed NCAN as a communication tool that will allow equitable access to knowledge that is vital in serving the diverse needs of ageing CALD Australians and voices in the health and aged care sectors.

Mr Migliorino stressed that "FECCA wants NCAN to be the voice representing the needs and experiences of the older CALD community and for its members to feel empowered and able to be heard."

"NCAN has been designed to be an interactive two-way communication vehicle that its members have access to for any issues relating to CALD ageing."

"For example, the National CALD Ageing Network will be an important tool in implementing the *National Ageing and Aged Care Strategy for People from CALD Backgrounds* which was launched by the Government in December 2012." This Strategy is available on the [FECCA website](#) and on the [Department of Health and Ageing's website](#).

FECCA is working with the Department of Health and Ageing on implementation plans for the Strategy. The NCAN network will play an important role in facilitating this by enabling CALD communities, organisations and individuals to feed into that process by sharing their stories and views.

The NCAN newsletter will provide regular updates on policy and issues relevant to CALD ageing and aged care and notices about upcoming opportunities such as the opening of grant applications. It will also provide an avenue to facilitate dialogue on CALD ageing issues, and opinion pieces will be invited from members.



**Join the National CALD Ageing Network (NCAN)**

People and organisations with an interest in CALD ageing and aged care are strongly encouraged to register with NCAN, and to encourage others in their networks to do so.

You can register online on the [FECCA website](#).





Participants at a community consultation with members of the Italian community with Age Discrimination Commissioner Susan Ryan at Co.As.It in Sydney, October 2012.

# UPDATE ON FECCA'S RECENT WORK ON CALD AGEING

## Aged Care Reforms and FECCA's Involvement

The Government's aged care reform program will start being rolled out on 1 July 2013 with the introduction of the Aged Care Gateway.

out of the new aged care system from 1 July 2013.

### Engagement

Part of FECCA's strategy is to build strong links with the whole aged care sector in order to help ensure that all stakeholders recognise the need for all future aged care policy and programs to be culturally and linguistically inclusive.

FECCA has established relationships with key stakeholders including COTA Australia, Carers Australia and Alzheimer's Australia, and is now an active member of the National Aged Care Alliance. NACA has established an increasing number of advisory and reference groups to advise the Government on developing the frameworks for the aged care reform agenda. All these groups are looking at detailed aspects of implementing the aged care reform agenda, and report to the Minister for Mental Health and Ageing, Mark Butler.

We have had numerous stakeholder consultations and liaisons to advance our goals.



Michelle Rowland MP launching the National CALD Aged Care Strategy at SydWest Multicultural Services in Blacktown, 20 December 2012.

A key challenge is to integrate CALD perspectives into the overall aged care and health delivery frameworks so that ageing and aged people from CALD backgrounds have access and equity to the full range of appropriate aged care services and are empowered and confident in accessing those services. FECCA's aim is to help develop an aged care system where access and equity is integral.

The National Aged Care Alliance (NACA) is the current Government's preferred advisory mechanism on the Government's aged care reform agenda which FECCA joined in August 2012. FECCA is represented on most of the advisory and reference groups to develop the frameworks for the aged care reform agenda:

- the NACA Consumer Directed Care (CDC) Home Care Packages Working Group
- Aged Care Gateway Advisory Group
- Specified Care and Services Review Advisory Group (looking at residential care)
- Ageing Expert Advisory Group
- Quality Indicators Advisory Group
- Home Support Advisory Group.

FECCA has a strong and positive influence on the aged care reform process to ensure that CALD issues are adequately taken into account in the roll

The benefits to older CALD Australians are already apparent in that NACA advice to Government on the Aged Care Gateway, from its commencement on 1 July 2013 (the first advice to go to the Government), is for interpreting services to be available, and for prompt referral to face-to-face assessment where there are language barriers.

FECCA's ongoing involvement is vital to ensuring that CALD issues are appropriately considered during the roll out of the aged care reforms. This is resource-intensive on both FECCA members and secretariat; it is vital that FECCA's continued high-level involvement in this process be continued, and supported.

## Contribute to NCAN News

In keeping with NCAN's aim to encourage dialogue and debate about CALD aged care issues, and the sharing of new ideas and initiatives, we invite NCAN members to contribute to each bimonthly edition of NCAN news.

Contributions can take various forms, including:

- Information about upcoming events and initiatives
- Stories of personal experience with the aged care system and CALD ageing issues
- Opinion pieces about CALD ageing issues and policy reforms

In other words, we encourage members to contribute any piece they think will improve knowledge and/or stimulate dialogue and new ideas in the CALD ageing sector.

To contribute a piece to the June edition of NCAN news or to find out more information, please email [melanie@fecca.org.au](mailto:melanie@fecca.org.au).



Participants at a community consultation with Age Discrimination Commissioner Susan Ryan at the Chinese Australian Services Society (CASS) in Sydney, October 2012.

## NATIONAL CALD AGED CARE STRATEGY LAUNCHED

Late last year, FECCA worked closely with the Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) to contribute to the development of the *National Ageing and Aged Care Strategy for People from CALD Backgrounds*. The Strategy was launched on 20 December 2012 at SydWest Multicultural Services, Blacktown.



Key contributors to the *National Ageing and Aged Care Strategy for People from CALD Backgrounds* at the launch at SydWest Multicultural Services in Blacktown on 20 December 2012.

The Strategy will be a significant enabler of CALD empowerment in the aged care system. It will greatly assist capacity building among CALD people and community organisations by ensuring that the *Living Longer. Living Better* aged care reform package, as well as all future aged care policy, is culturally and linguistically inclusive.

The Strategy will enable CALD communities and organisations, and service providers working in partnership with CALD communities and organisations, to develop innovative programs and projects to address CALD needs, which can hopefully be funded through the DoHA Aged Care Service Improvement and Healthy Ageing Grants Fund.

### Implementation of the CALD Aged Care Strategy

FECCA is talking with the Department of Health and Ageing about ways FECCA can assist the Department in achieving the 35 goals they have committed to achieving under the CALD Aged Care Strategy, to help ensure that Australians from CALD backgrounds have equal access to high quality, culturally appropriate aged care.

## FECCA DISCUSSES ELDER ABUSE AT AMARWA CONFERENCE

FECCA Aged Care Policy Officer Dr Gillian McFeat Lin was a panelist at the Australian Migrant and Refugee Women's Alliance (AMaRWA)'s conference *Stand Up!* about eliminating all forms of violence against CALD women, from 28-30 April.

Dr McFeat Lin spoke specifically about forms of violence against older and aged CALD women. She noted that according to data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, in 2011, 34.4% of women aged 65 and over were born overseas. Research indicates that the rate of elder abuse varies from 1.2% - 5.5%. These figures are derived from service providers who have come into direct contact with victims of elder abuse and it is believed that there are many more older adults in the community who have or are being abused by their partner or adult children who have not come forward.

Referencing various pieces of research on elder abuse and violence against CALD women, Dr McFeat Lin outlined some of the risk factors and barriers to justice that CALD women face, particularly social isolation: "We are told that social determinants lead to isolation and can impact on a person's health and sense of wellbeing...Being able to speak English is essential for immigrants from CALD backgrounds to engage with Australian society beyond one's ethnic community. Not being able to speak English well can inhibit the formation of social networks and increase the risk of social isolation."

Dr McFeat Lin also noted that elder abuse was frequently discussed as a key issue at the CALD aged care consultations that FECCA held around Australia last October. The feedback from these consultations around Australia informed FECCA that elder abuse ranged from taking advantage financially of an older CALD person to filtering information by a carer or family member who acts as the advocate or interpreter. Though participants acknowledged that a lot of work had been done around elder abuse nationally by community organisations, they suggested that frameworks needed to be put in place to protect elder CALD persons from abuse.

FECCA congratulates AMaRWA on the success of the *Stand Up!* conference and looks forward to participating in future AMaRWA conferences.