

FECCAe-NEWS

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

WELCOME TO THE MAY EDITION OF FECCA E-NEWS, ISSUE 5, 2018

Message from Chairperson, Mary Patetsos

I am pleased to welcome you to the fifth issue of FECCA e-News for 2018. May has been a positive month for us at FECCA working with culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities in Australia—in particular with regards to our work in aged care, mental health and disability. At the start of the month, FECCA launched a new consultative and advisory body aimed at achieving the best possible care for older people CALD background—the Positive CALD Ageing Network Committee (PCAN). The committee will, among other things, assist FECCA in creating a comprehensive aged care policy agenda to drive planning. I believe this is this an exciting development in one of FECCA's key policy areas with the committee membership representative of CALD aged care and ageing consumer groups, which extends beyond FECCA's organisational membership. Terms of Reference for a complementary internal 'Ageing Well' group are also being drafted.



Another important policy area for FECCA is disability. On 15 May the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) released the Cultural and Linguistic Diversity Strategy 2018 (the Strategy) on the [NDIS website](#). This is an important step forward in ensuring that people of CALD background have full and equal access to the NDIS. Our critical task for coming months is to make sure that the strategy is backed up by adequate and appropriate resources.

I am very pleased to announce that FECCA, together with Mental Health Australia and the National Ethnic Disability Alliance (NEDA), have formed an alliance to deliver a new national project that will work with CALD mental health consumers and carers to provide a renewed and much needed national focus on mental health and suicide prevention. The importance of

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WELCOME TO THE MAY EDITION OF FECCA E-NEWS, ISSUE 5, 2018 *continued*

understanding cultural sensitivities and complexities in mental health care cannot be underestimated and this project aims to tackle significant issues that people of CALD background experience when accessing the mental health system.

In May FECCA applauded the Government in their decision to drop a proposal to change the Assurance of Support Scheme which would have dramatically increased the income requirement for people seeking to bring their parents to Australia. It is heartening that the government listened to people in their communities and did not proceed with the measure.

Finally, May was Federal Budget month. Worth noting is that the government has committed to providing an additional \$5 million in 2018-2019 for community organisations assisting newly arrived migrants to integrate into Australian society through the Fostering Integration Grants Scheme. There were other positive announcements in the budget such as increased flexibility in the Adult Migrant English Program for migrants aged 18 and under, the establishment of an Anti-Slavery Unit within the Department of Home Affairs, and additional funding to the Commonwealth Ombudsman. FECCA is however, very disappointed that the government will extend the waiting period for migrants from the current two years to four years for various social security payments and to introduce a four-year wait for support including carer allowances, family tax benefit and widow allowances.

We will continue our work with all migrant communities on these important issues and we are grateful for the support you provide FECCA in its efforts to promote the benefits of an inclusive, multicultural Australia.

I encourage you to be engaged as we strive for fairness, equality and recognition for all Australians and to follow FECCA's work through e-News, Twitter, Facebook and our website.

Finally, on behalf of FECCA, I offer my deepest condolences on the passing of Professor Laksiri Jayasuriya AM. Professor Jayasuriya will be remembered for his enormous contribution to Multiculturalism in Australia. Australian civil society will greatly miss his advocacy, writing and contributions to Human Rights and Equal Opportunity. I have included here an extract of an homage by Dr Siri Gamage:

**In Memorium: Emeritus Professor
Laksiri Dharmasoka Jayasuriya (1931 - 2018)**

By Dr. Siri Gamage, Sydney, Australia

Emeritus Professor Laksiri Jayasuriya (Laksiri) who was Professor of Social Work and Social administration at the University of Western Australia passed away on April 20th 2018 in Perth. He was the founder of the sociology department at the University of Colombo and led an illustrious career in the Australian academia while contributing to government policy making processes in areas such as multiculturalism, ethnic affairs, immigration and citizenship. He nurtured cohorts of students under his care during his long career in Australia and continued to engage in scholarly activities and publishing after retirement. Professor Jayasuriya leaves behind beloved wife Rohini and two loving sons Kanishka and Pradeep—both professionals, one in the academia and the other in medical field. His death comes as a great loss to his academic colleagues, particularly in Australia and Sri Lanka.

Professor Jayasuriya's published work is available online through the national Library of Australia for anyone to access. It is a fitting tribute to a tireless academic, advocate on immigrant and ethnic rights, policy advisor, a humanist and influential figure in the Australian policy context. Condolence messages received from the WA Government and former ministers of Multicultural Affairs etc. reflect his standing in the Australian community. He was a giver as one of his friends has remarked in the Guest Book maintained by the West Australian newspaper.

Laksiri is fondly remembered as an intellectual rooted in Sri Lanka and nurtured in Australia writing with high degree of integrity representing the interests of those on the margins in Australian society in the context of social theory, government social policy, ethnic rights, equity and social justice.

May he rest in Peace!

[Click here](#) to read the full article.

Mary Patetsos
Chairperson
**Federation of Ethnic Communities'
Councils of Australia (FECCA)**

FECCA NEWS

During the month of May, FECCA staff attended a variety of events and stakeholder meetings including:

FECCA celebrated National Volunteer Week with Volunteering Australia. This year's theme: Give a little. Change a lot. The aim was to celebrate the millions of volunteers who make a profound impact in their communities and on society, through giving a little time.



FECCA staff attended the Economic Security for Women (eS4W) conference in Melbourne on 2 May together with 21 participants representing organisations from across Australia. The eS4W alliance works towards improving the economic wellbeing and financial security that are essential to enable all women to have an equal place in society.



In May FECCA went to Tasmania and met with Friends of the Multicultural Council of Tasmania (MCoT). While in Tasmania, the FECCA CEO, Dr Emma Campbell, briefed the community on the proposed citizenship legislations and met with the Minister for Community Affairs who is overseeing the 2019 FECCA Conference which will be held in Hobart.

Multicultural Council of Tasmania

Leadership for a Multicultural Tasmania



FECCA NEWS

FECCA CEO, Dr Emma Campbell was excited to meet Minister for Ageing the Hon Ken Wyatt AM together with friends from the Diversity Sub-Group at the National Aged Care Alliance meeting in Melbourne on May18.



On May 22, FECCA participated at an event organised by the Regional Australia Institute (RAI)—More Migrants for Small Towns. The aim was to promote the success of community-led migration strategies in growing the rural workforce and revitalising country towns across Australia.



On 11 May FECCA met with a delegation from the Singapore Government, the Prime Minister's Office, Strategy Group, to discuss FECCA's perspective on Australia's migration programs and workplace diversity strategies and challenges. The delegation was led by the Deputy Secretary, Strategy Group, Ms Tan Gee Keow.



On **17 May** FECCA staff celebrated the **Norwegian National Day**—Constitution Day—with in house Norwegian Policy and Project Officer, Dr Janecke Wille. The day was later celebrated with the Norwegian community and friends at the residence of the Norwegian Ambassador.



FECCA NEWS

On 10 May FECCA attended the Safeguarding Australia summit where contemporary developments of inter-agency operations were addressed focusing on the synergies that can be created through developing an integrated strategic focus.



In May FECCA made the following submissions:

Inquiry into the review processes associated with visa cancellations made on criminal grounds where FECCA expressed concern that the existing review processes as they relate to decisions made under section 501 of the Migration Act may be inefficient and can lead to grave injustice and the eroding of individual human rights and freedoms.

Submission to Australian Citizenship Legislation Amendment 2018 where FECCA strongly opposed the introduction of this legislation as it will dramatically change the rules determining qualification for Australian citizenship.

Australia's report under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities where FECCA called for more effort to ensure that there is equality and access for CALD Australians to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and that disability services provided are culturally and linguistically appropriate.

Developing a National Strategic Approach to Maternity Services where FECCA called for a defined culturally competent Maternity Plan for CALD Women that includes policies and frameworks on language services, bilingual and bicultural workers, cultural competency training for all staff involved in providing maternity services, and inclusion of cultural appropriate antenatal surveys of risk factors.

Australia's Humanitarian Intake 2-18-19 Discussion paper where FECCA recommended that Australia maintains the humanitarian visas as permanent residence visas which allow entrants to work, study and live indefinitely in Australia, encourages and facilitates family reunion, and ensures increased settlement support for humanitarian entrants based on community needs.

In May FECCA put out a number of press releases related to:

- Aged care quality standards
- Attendance at maternity services workshops
- The release of CALD disability strategy
- Scrapping of parent visa cost hike
- Welcoming the aged care funding boost
- Comments on the Federal Budget
- Launch of new aged care initiative
- New national focus: bringing together the mental health and the multicultural sectors
- National compact on permanent migration
- Urging for increased oversight of migrant services

[Click here](#) to read all FECCA press releases.

FECCA NEWS

FECCA Roundtable for New and Emerging Communities

On May 14, FECCA organised a roundtable for new and emerging communities in Queensland. The roundtable was attended by Senator Bartlett, Gail Ker from ACCESS Community Services, Kasun Ubayasiri from Griffith University, Rose Karlo and Rose Brown from Ethnic Communities' Council of Queensland (ECCQ) and participants from various communities in Queensland. FECCA wishes to thank Eidfest Community Services for their support in hosting the event. Some of the key tips in community representation for new and emerging communities and organisations that emerged during the event were:

- Be persistent but polite
- Be clear in your message
- Build and maintain relationships
- Seek networks, collaborate
- Paint a picture, tell real stories
- Approach your local media



Kasun Ubayasiri, Yasmin Khan, Rose Brown and Dr Emma Campbell addressing the audience



Attendees at the Brisbane roundtable

STAKEHOLDER UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Multicultural Council of Tasmania

Leadership for a Multicultural Tasmania

Become a Friend of the Multicultural Council of Tasmania.

As a friend you can show that you share their vision for a culturally diverse and harmonious Tasmania that is fair and inclusive—where people from all backgrounds have the opportunity to participate in and contribute to Tasmanian society. To learn more, [click here](#).



The AGMC Conference 'Living and Loving in Diversity conference: 10 years on' will take place on 21 – 32 September 2018. This is a three day conference in

Melbourne aiming to explore the intersectional challenges faced by multicultural and multi-faith LGBTIQ communities. The conference will specifically focus on current themes around social and political, wellbeing and older adults, youth, new and emerging communities and asylum seekers, multi-faith, community and lived experiences, local advocacy programs and strategies, and international research. Early bird tickets can be purchased until the end of July 2018. [Click here](#) for more details.



Family and Relationship Services Australia (FRSA) 2018 National Conference will be held on 20-23 November 2018 at the Cairns Pullman International Hotel. The

theme and major focus for #FRSA2018 is **Be the Change: Leaving no one behind**. The goal is to build on the sector's strengths to further improve outcomes for children, families and communities. The core priority is for all FRSA's services to continue serving each and every clients, ensuring that no one is left marginalised and disadvantaged. FRSA invites you to submit an abstract to present at the 2018 FRSA National Conference, [learn more here](#). For further information about the conference, [click here](#).

STAKEHOLDER UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Fixing NDIS National Conference



Contributions are invited for papers and workshops, reform proposals, and campaign ideas for a National Conference on Fixing NDIS in Melbourne on 3-4 September 2018. Five years after the launch of NDIS in

July 2013, it is apparent that NDIS requires major reform if it is to achieve its stated goals and fulfil the promise of its proponents to Revolutionise Disability Services. The **Campaign to Reform NDIS** and its package of **15 reform measures** have arisen from the deliberations of people with disabilities, families and friends, support organisations, researchers and policy makers over the past two years, facilitated by Civil Society Australia. The Conference will seek broad input into the NDIS reform process and present papers and workshops on current practices and proposed improvements or alternatives to them. **Click here** to express an interest in presenting a paper or workshop, a proposal for reform, or a campaign idea. **Click here** to register for the conference and **here** to participate in the campaign. The deadline for Expressions of Interest is 30 June 2018.



Australian Government
Department of Human Services

Department of Human Services has recently posted a media hub article featuring their Baulkham Hills service centre team leader, Michelle Cen on their department's social media channels. It is called 'Finding joy in helping others this Chinese Language Day' and shows the department's efforts in helping Chinese customers

access their payments and services. The Department is keen for the community to understand the steps they take to help people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

For more information:

Human Services Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/HumanServicesAU/posts/1401951486577918>

Human Services Twitter:
<https://twitter.com/HumanServicesAU/status/987139217594732545>



Australian Government
Department of Human Services

The 'Changes to child care fee assistance' factsheets are now live. They can be found on the **community organisations** page under 'Changes to child care fee assistance' and under the relevant languages on the **information in your language** page. They are published in Arabic, Chinese (Simplified), Korean, Persian (Farsi) and Vietnamese.

STAKEHOLDER UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES



Community groups will be able to help migrants better integrate into Australian life with funding from a new grants program. The Turnbull Government will introduce a new \$5 million grants program for measures that support social cohesion and integration of migrants into the Australian community. The Coalition's 2018-19 Budget establishes the Fostering Integration Grants

program to help local groups to assist migrants to integrate into the Australian community. The grants program will support the delivery of one-off projects and new or expanded initiatives that encourage economic and social participation of new arrivals, including activities that promote employment and participation in the broader community. Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs Alan Tudge said the program reaffirms the Government's commitment Australia's unique form of multiculturalism. Applications for the grants will open in the second half of 2018 and will be advertised on [GrantConnect](#).

The Australian National Breastfeeding Strategy public consultation is now open until 18 June. FECCA encourages you to take part in this consultation to ensure the strategy is inclusive of CALD women's needs. [See here](#) for more information and [here](#) for the consultation.



The 17th annual online survey by Mission Australia, which gives voice to the concerns, values and thoughts of 15 to 19 year olds across the country, is out. In the 2017 Youth Survey, young people told us that the

top three most important issues in Australia were 'mental health', 'alcohol and drugs' and 'equity and discrimination'. This year's survey will ask new focus questions to delve deeper into issues around social media, alcohol and drugs, barriers to employment and how young people feel about their community. The survey can be accessed [here](#) and will be open until Tuesday the 31st of July 2018. You may also like to join in the conversation online on Facebook (www.facebook.com/MissionAust) or Twitter (@MissionAust) using the hashtag #YouthSurvey2018. For more information, [click here](#).

STAKEHOLDER UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES



Australians will get a chance to have their say about the health system by joining a new online public panel being launched by the Consumers Health Forum of Australia.

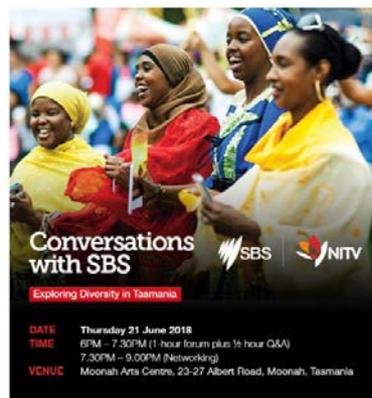
Australia's Health Panel will, for the first time provide a national platform for people to register their views on health issues that are touching their lives, whether it be access to the right care, costs or issues of safety and quality. The panel offers an opportunity for people to join a national initiative to help CHF put forward practical solutions to improve health and care. Register [here](#) to lend your voice for a better health system.



Are you a Queensland journalist from a culturally and linguistically diverse background or with an interest in diversity? Media Diversity Australia wants to talk to

you! MDA will visit Brisbane on June 12 to host this workshop for #CALD journos in partnership with @ Multicultural Affairs Queensland and the @Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland. The MDA team is keen to hear more about the newsroom experiences of journalists from culturally diverse backgrounds and keep building the growing network of CALD journos from around the country. To learn more and to register, [click here](#).

SBS would like to formally invite you to its upcoming stakeholder forum, **Conversations with SBS – Exploring Diversity in Tasmania** from 6pm-9pm (5.30pm arrival) on Thursday 21 June at Moonah Arts Centre, Moonah. Hosted and facilitated by SBS World News Presenter Janice Petersen, the forum will bring together key stakeholders to explore how the media reflects, recognises and celebrates diversity. A panel of SBS Executive will talk on the network's distinctive programming and services across television, radio and digital. [Click here](#) to RSVP.



STAKEHOLDER UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES



A new online interpreting training course—Interpreting for Skills for NAATI Certification—is now being offered by RMIT and TAFE SA. The development of the course was funded by the Department of Social Services and forms part of the Federal Coalition Government's

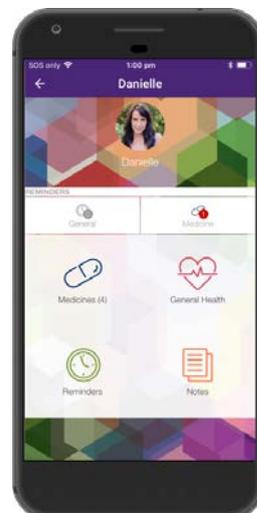
commitment to more effectively integrate newly arrived migrants and refugees into Australian society. The course is a high quality Vocational Education and Training (VET) course compliant with the Australian Qualifications Framework and it is launched to improve access to qualified interpreters in regional, rural and remote communities. This is just one of numerous initiatives the Federal Coalition Government funds to support people who need language assistance. Others include the **Translating and Interpreting Service** (TIS National), the **Free Interpreter Service** and the **Free Translating Service**. To find out more about the Interpreting Skills for NAATI Certification course, visit **RMIT** or **TAFE SA**.



Access to information on health, legal and government information in one's native language is vital and empowers our culturally and linguistically

diverse communities. 2M Language Services, Australia's language service provider and technology thought leader, has been awarded tenders to work with the Australian Federal Police, the QLD Government, Department of Human Services (DHS) and other State and Commonwealth Departments to provide translation and interpreting into 250+ languages. **Click here** to find out more about 2M Language Services or contact **team@2m.com.au**.

When you have a health condition, it is important to take your medicines correctly which means the right dose and on time. Sometimes this is not easy for patients and carers with long-term and complex conditions. This is where the MedicineWise App can help. The MedicineWise App helps patients take better care of their health, manage medicines and avoid the risks from not taking medicines properly. It is simple to create a list of medicines using the barcode scanning feature or by searching the database of medicines. The MedicineWise App is free and available to download from the **App store** and **Google play**. For more information, **click here** or to provide feedback, contact the **NPS MedicineWise team**.



STAKEHOLDER UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES



In light of recent proposed citizenship changes that will impact migrant communities in Australia, Colour Code, Fair Go for Migrants and Welcome to Australia are hosting an information session in South Australia. The session will feature policy and legal experts explaining

the impact of these changes on migrant communities, provide information and resources on how communities can respond to these changes, and offer community members the opportunity to raise any questions or concerns with experts.

When: **6pm-8pm, Tuesday 5 June 2018**

Where: **The Welcome Centre, 100 Drayton St, Bowden**

Please RSVP [here](#).



Good Shepherd
Australia New Zealand

Good Shepherd's #GoodConversations event series shines a light on social politics that disadvantage women and their children. Good Shepherd brings together policy experts, sector colleagues and passionate members of the public to exchange information, discuss

policy and build networks. The next event will be on forced marriage, slavery and family violence and invites you to join human rights champion Emeritus Professor Gillian Triggs and other leaders in policy and practice to explore the link between forced marriage, slavery and family violence.

When: **Thursday 7 June 2018, 5:30 – 7:30pm**

Where: **Melbourne Town Hall (Swanston Hall), 90-130 Swanston Street, Melbourne**

For more information and to buy tickets, [click here](#).



The 2018 South Australia (SA) Refugee Week Calendar of Events has been released by the Australian Migrant Resource Centre (AMRC) and SA Refugee Week

Committee. You are invited to participate in over 40 different events centering around World Refugee Day on 20th June 2018, including forums, community events, social functions and exhibitions coordinated by councils, clubs, schools, churches, community groups and organisations. The week of events celebrate the valuable contribution of refugees to South Australia's cultural, social and economic development, and encourage understanding, cultural harmony and community engagement. To download a copy of the calendar, visit the [AMRC Website](#).

STAKEHOLDER UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES



A new five-part web series, *Widows of Parramatta*, is the centrepiece of a new campaign aimed at promoting organ donation within Arabic communities. Produced by the NSW Multicultural Health Communication Service and the NSW Organ and Tissue Donation Service, the series explores



the friendship of three elderly Lebanese Australian widows—Layla Kirswani, Jamilie Joseph and Genevieve Kahaji. The series addresses a belief that many people are reluctant to register as donors because of religious and cultural values or ideas. [Click here](#) to read more and [here](#) to see the trailer.

CALD AGEING NEWS



Communities, Capacity and Innovation: these combined elements support opportunities for lifelong connectedness, active participation and meaningful experiences, each critical for older people from

culturally and linguistically diverse communities who are living in a familiar or adopted land that may be 'foreign' at some time, to age well. The AIFL conference brings together the expertise and innovation of multicultural communities with government, researchers, academics, policy makers and services. It aims to build sector capacity to ageing well across a range of settings through informing knowledge, practices and collaborative partnerships that respond to the voices of the older people and priorities for multicultural communities. Call for abstracts are now open, [click here](#) for details.

CALD AGEING NEWS



You are invited to the COTA Australia National Policy Forum, the premier annual national policy event on issues affecting older Australians. This year's Forum

will be held on Thursday 28 June 2018 at the National Press Club, Canberra. The theme is **Older Consumers: Choice, Challenges and Rights in Changing Markets**. The Forum brings together older consumers, consumer advocates, regulators and sector experts to closely examine the challenges and opportunities facing older consumers in current and emerging markets; and to identify the priorities for ensuring their voices are heard in consumer policy, regulation and market practice. For more information, [click here](#).

The Heart Foundation has launched a new campaign to get Australians to move more and sit less, every day. They are making it easier for people to increase their physical activity by tracking their steps and progress with the Heart Foundation Walking app ([iPhone](#) and [Android](#)), or by joining (or setting up) a local Heart Foundation Walking group. [Click here](#) for more information.



The Department of Health has developed two new videos to help providers use My Aged Care. The first video, [Navigating and viewing information in the client record](#), is for providers and gives an overview of how to locate a client, view detailed client information, and navigate the different tables within a client record. The second video, [Matching and identifying existing client records](#), is for the

assessor and details the best practice for registering a new client including searching for a client using legal and/or preferred name, or date of birth. All My Aged Care support materials for providers and assessors are available on the [department's website](#).

Information, resources and services for palliative care and advance care planning are now available on the ['End of Life Directions for Aged Care' \(ELDAC\) website](#). This online resource will support health professionals and aged care staff to provide care to senior Australians in residential aged care and the community. ELDAC includes five [toolkits](#) to make meaningful and practical materials readily available and a phone service (**1800 870 155**) to help users quickly navigate to the most appropriate resource.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN THE MULTICULTURAL SECTOR

FECCA e-News aims to keep our readers updated on career opportunities in the multicultural sector. Please contact janecke@fecca.org.au if you wish to advertise an employment opportunity in our monthly newsletter.



Australia's Multicultural Centre against family violence is seeking a principal lawyer for their Melbourne office. For more information, [click here](#).



The Migrant Information Centre in Eastern Melbourne is seeking a settlement worker assisting people from refugee and family stream migrant background. For more information, [click here](#).



Settlement Services International has a range of job opportunities, [click here](#) for more information.



COTA Australia is looking for a Policy Officer for their Melbourne office, [click here](#) for more information.



The National Ethnic Disability Alliance is looking for a policy and project officer and a communications officer for their Canberra office. [Click here](#) and [here](#) for more information.



Publish in FECCA's e-News

FECCA's monthly electronic newsletter is produced to keep our members, constituents and interested parties up-to-date with FECCA's activities, to discuss key issues and to disseminate information about news, updates and events in the multicultural sector. FECCA's e-News reaches a large national network of followers representing the many migrant communities in Australia. You can have your organisation's news included in FECCA's e-News and reach a large and diverse community in Australia as well as politicians, organisations in the field and other stakeholders. Please contact Dr Janecke Wille on janecke@fecca.org.au for further details.



Advertise in Australian Mosaic

FECCA publishes its national magazine, *Australian Mosaic*, three times a year. *Australian Mosaic* is a plain English magazine, which presents a wide range of contemporary issues associated with multiculturalism, social justice, community harmony, and cultural and faith pluralism in Australia. *Australian Mosaic* is intended to be of interest to a wide readership and publishes a range of perspectives on selected themes. By advertising in the *Australian Mosaic* your organisation or business will reach a large and diverse migrant community in Australia as well as stakeholders and organisations in the sector. Contact Dr Janecke Wille on janecke@fecca.org.au to discuss opportunities and pricing.



Stay informed about FECCA's news and activities

FECCA encourages you to sign up on our mailing list to stay informed about FECCA's work as well as other events, developments and activities in the sector. Contact Dr Janecke Wille on janecke@fecca.org.au or find the [link](#) at our website to be added to FECCA's mailing list.