

Celebration to mark 40 years of advocacy for migrant communities

The contribution of migrants to Australian society and culture will be celebrated tonight at a special event in Hobart to mark 40 years of advocacy by two peak bodies representing the nation's ethnic communities.

The event, to be held at Government House in Hobart, will celebrate 40 years of advocacy by the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) and the Multicultural Council of Tasmania (MCOT), who, along with affiliate organisations in other states, have been consistent voices for equity for all people from culturally and ethnically diverse background.

The event will be hosted by Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner AC and will be attended by approximately 200 people, including Members of Parliament and key community leaders.

Officials from both organisations will also take the opportunity to 'prelaunch' the 2019 FECCA biennial conference, titled PURPOSE. LEADERSHIP. PROGRESS: 40 years and beyond, to be hosted by the Multicultural Council of Tasmania in Hobart on 9-11 Oct 2019.

The Tasmanian Government has provided \$50,000 in funding to co-host the event.

MCOT Chairperson Waqas Durrani said it is important to recognise the achievements of both organisations over 40 years.

"FECCA and MCOT have provided crucial advocacy to State and Federal Governments, ensuring the perspectives of Australia's migrant communities have been considered in the formulation of public policy.

"There is still so much to do to bring Australia's diverse communities closer together, evidenced by what appears to be an increase in racism and hate speech in public discourse.

"The FECCA biennial conference in October is an opportunity to discuss these and other challenges, and to set a course for the years ahead.

"The conference is expected to bring up to 500 people to Tasmania across three days, including leading academics, Federal and State Government representatives and community leaders from across the country, which will showcase Hobart and contribute almost \$1 million to the local economy."

Anyone interested in registering to attend the conference is encouraged to do so online at <https://fecca2019.com.au/>

Contact: media@fecca.org.au