

DEEP CONCERN OVER DELAYS PROCESSING CITIZENSHIP APPLICATIONS: FECCA

The Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) today expressed deep concern about the significant delays being experienced by migrants who are seeking to become Australian citizens.

The concern follows the release of the Auditor-General's report titled [Efficiency of the Processing of Applications for Citizenship by Conferral](#), which found that:

- Applications for citizenship by conferral have not been processed efficiently by the Department of Home Affairs
- Applications have not been processed in a time-efficient manner
- Processing times have increased and long delays are evident between applications being lodged and decisions being taken
- Significant periods of inactivity are evident for both complex and non-complex applications.

FECCA Chairperson Ms Mary Patetsos said these delays by the Federal Government's Department of Home Affairs were putting a strain on migrant families.

“Unwarranted delays in the processing of citizenship applications cause significant hardship for families.

“These are migrant families already living in Australia who simply want to formalise their commitment to our great nation.

“We should not be creating unnecessary bureaucratic barriers for people wanting to pledge their allegiance and commitment to Australia.

“The granting of Australian citizenship is symbolic of acceptance into the Australian community, and the sooner we can bestow citizenship upon eligible migrants the sooner they can get on with making valuable contributions to our society.”

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

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