

FECCA calls for citizenship path for Nauru children

The Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) has called on the Prime Minister to announce a pathway to citizenship for refugee children brought to Australia from Nauru that offers security for them in Australia as their home.

"The lengthy detention of these children, in many cases for their entire childhood, has amounted to mistreatment," the Chairperson of FECCA, Mary Patetsos, said today.

"Australians are better than this.

"We call on Prime Minister Scott Morrison to establish measures which will enable these children to settle here—to grow up, succeed and contribute to Australia as citizens.

"Any uncertainty about the status of these children simply continues our mistreatment of them.

"A clear pathway to citizenship would confirm the rights they will enjoy in this country and the responsibilities they will have as citizens.

"Certainty of a future in this country will ensure successful settlement and their ongoing social, cultural and economic contribution to Australia," Ms Patetsos said.

Ms Patetsos said that for decades, Australia's cultural diversity and economic success had been driven by its immigration program—including refugee intakes—with a clear, humane and fair pathway to citizenship.

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

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