

# FECCA gives cautious welcome to Government's Multicultural Statement

The Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia gave a cautious welcome to the Government's Multicultural Statement – *Multicultural Australia: United, Strong, Successful* – announced today by Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull.

Mr Joe Caputo, Chairperson of FECCA said: "The Multicultural Statement is another step in our ongoing efforts to maintain and strengthen Australia's inclusive, prosperous and harmonious multicultural society."

"The release of this statement is a great opportunity for our politicians to lead and unite all Australians in celebrating the tremendous economic, cultural and educational benefits which have come from Australia's longstanding commitment to immigration," said Mr Caputo. "We applaud the fact that, over decades, all Australian Governments – whatever their political persuasion – have remained committed to a program of immigration and multiculturalism."

Mr Caputo continued: "FECCA urges the Government to use this opportunity to show leadership in supporting Australia's multiculturalism by announcing tangible policy initiatives including a Federal Multicultural Act and the development of a National Language Policy."

FECCA also welcomed the Prime Minister's clear statement that racism and discrimination have no place in Australia.

"This reminds us of the importance of legislation including Section 18C of the *Racial Discrimination Act* that provides protection from racially motivated attacks against Australians from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities," said Mr Caputo.

FECCA is the national peak body representing Australians from 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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