

FECCA urges submissions to Aged Care Workforce Strategy

The Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) has urged organisations involved in aged care to make written submissions to the Federal Government on its *Aged Care Workforce Strategy (ACWS)*.

The Department of Health is offering extensive consultation on the *Strategy*, via its *ACWS Taskforce*.

As well as inviting written submissions for the next five weeks, the *ACWS Taskforce* is offering a series of community consultations with its Chair, Professor John Pollaers in Brisbane, Melbourne and Hobart. More information can be found at the [Taskforce website](#).

“This is a great opportunity for our communities to have their say on this important issue,” the Chairperson of FECCA, Ms Mary Patetsos, said today. “We urge interested organisations to offer their views to the Government, particularly on the special challenges facing aged care workers of culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) background.”

She said that CALD Australians are heavily represented in the aged care workforce and often face discrimination and racism. They occupy the full range of occupations, from professional through to carers and support staff.

FECCA calls for:

- Workers in aged care to be properly remunerated, respected and provided with professional pathways;
- Well-resourced, quality capability training as a requirement through the diversity framework and staff trained and supported in cultural competency;
- A bilingual and bicultural aged care workforce, to match the needs of the diverse people in their care; and
- Australia’s migration program to support the needs for a diverse and skilled aged care workforce.

“The skills and welfare of our workers in aged care are so important that we urge everybody involved to take this opportunity to have their say,” Ms Patetsos said.

FECCA is the national peak body representing Australian from CALD backgrounds. Our role is to advocate and promote issues on behalf of its constituency to government, business and the wider community.

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