

FECCA welcomes changes to social security bill

The Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) said today that the Federal Opposition should be congratulated for securing changes to the Government's *Encouraging Self-Sufficiency for Newly Arrived Migrants Bill 2018*.

The Chairperson of FECCA, Mary Patetsos, said: "These amendments will help protect the most vulnerable new arrivals and their families from the new four-year waiting period for benefits, imposed by the Federal Government.

"We congratulate the Opposition for listening to our concerns and for the amendments that reduce the Bill's impact on the Family Tax Benefit, Carer Payment, Carer Allowance, Paid Parental Leave and Dad and Partner Pay.

"We thank the Government for accepting the changes.

"FECCA notes that exemptions to waiting periods for people who become lone parents will remain. People on refugee and humanitarian visas as well as those who become citizens are exempt from the changes," Ms Patetsos said.

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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