

# FECCA welcomes the new Scanlon Foundation report on social cohesion

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FECCA welcomes the new Scanlon Foundation report [Mapping Social Cohesion: The Scanlon Foundation surveys 2016](#) which demonstrates wide support for multiculturalism and positive attitudes toward immigration among Australians.

Mr Joe Caputo, FECCA Chairperson said: “The Scanlon Foundation report found consistent high levels of agreement that ‘multiculturalism has been good for Australia.’

Mr Caputo continued: “This is a positive story—that the overwhelming majority of Australians, whether born in Australia or overseas, accept that multiculturalism is good for this country and has always been good for this country.”

However, Mr Caputo expressed concern over the report’s findings of increased negativity towards Muslims and a rise in the proportion of people experiencing discrimination on the basis of skin colour, ethnicity or religion: “This demonstrates the importance of organisations like FECCA in encouraging an inclusive and harmonious multicultural Australian society and protecting the interests of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Australians,” said Mr Caputo.

He continued: “It also demonstrates the importance of strong Racial Discrimination legislation and the retention of Section 18C of the *Racial Discrimination Act* (RDA) that provides protection against racially motivated attacks, including hate speech.”

FECCA opposes any attempt to amend or weaken Section 18C of the RDA.

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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