

# **FECCA welcomes the news that billboards featuring two girls wearing hijab celebrating Australia Day will be restored**

Following the decision to take down the Australia Day sign featuring two young girls wearing hijabs, the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia welcomes the news that the billboard will be restored – and displayed in other capital cities.

FECCA's Chairperson, Joe Caputo said, 'Australia Day is about Australians of all backgrounds, ethnicities and religions coming together to unite and celebrate our shared Australian home.'

'The tremendous community response that resulted in raising funds to reinstate the sign is a wonderful example of how we can unite and celebrate Australia's diversity'

Australia Day aims to inspire national pride and spirit to enrich the life of the nation.

'Australia's harmonious and vibrant multicultural society should be a source of tremendous national pride,' said Mr Caputo. 'Migration to Australia has enriched the lives of all Australians, as well as our economy and society. Migration is part of Australia's history, identity and culture.'

FECCA commends the National Australia Day Council for its work to ensure that Australia Day is inclusive and embraces all Australians, including those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

'For many Australians of migrant background, Australia Day holds special meaning, marking the anniversary of becoming an Australian citizen,' said Mr Caputo.

'However, we also recognise the views of those Indigenous Australians for whom Australia Day is a reminder of the historical and contemporary injustices faced by many in their community,' Mr Caputo said.

FECCA is the national peak body representing Australians from culturally and linguistically diverse 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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