

FECCA's Terms of Reference for Aged Care Royal Commission

The Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) today urged the Federal Government's Royal Commission into the Aged Care Sector to develop an understanding of the experiences of Australians of culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) background in the aged care system.

The Chairperson of FECCA, Mary Patetsos said that FECCA had met with and written to the Minister for Aged Care, Mr Ken Wyatt, to express its views on the Terms of Reference for the Commission.

Ms Patetsos said: "More than one in every three older Australians is born overseas. People of CALD background need help to access and understand the services they need because they face particular issues as they age," Ms Patetsos said.

Ms Patetsos said that FECCA believed the Terms of Reference should include investigation of:

- The future challenges and opportunities for delivering aged care services in the context of changing demographics, including in remote, rural and regional Australia and the increasing numbers of older Australians from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
- Provision of culturally appropriate care and impact of failures in that provision on outcomes for CALD Australians
- End of life care and experiences particularly with regards to spiritual and cultural needs
- Dementia and intersectionality (experience of CALD Australians living with dementia)
- Training and support for CALD workers
- Bullying and racism in the aged care workplace
- Staffing ratios and its impact on quality service provision
- Governance and financial management of aged care facilities
- Complaints and feedback mechanisms
- Provision of home care
- The failure of the aged care system to meet the needs of financially vulnerable Australians including the homeless
- The operation of the aged care system and financial abuse of older Australians.

"We are fully supportive of this Royal Commission and look forward to its powers to deliver greater justice and equity to all of our older Australians, whatever their country of origin," 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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