

Harmony Day

The Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia today joined thousands of community organisations, businesses, schools, workplaces and governments in celebrating Harmony Day.

The Chairperson of FECCA, Mary Patetsos, said that Harmony Day was an opportunity to reflect on the achievements of one of the most successful multicultural societies in the world.

"Today is the United Nations' International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination," Ms Patetsos said.

"In Australia we mark this date by celebrating Harmony Day and the benefits which have come from the economic, social and cultural contributions that all migrants make to the Australian community.

"Our harmonious and vibrant multicultural society is a source of great national pride."

Ms Patetsos said that Australia's diverse society and acceptance of people from other cultures should be protected and enhanced so that all Australians can fully participate in the community.

"We take this opportunity, on Harmony Day, to remind our political leaders that Australians of culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) background should have equity and access to Government services as well as equal opportunities in the Australian economy and society," Ms Patetsos said.

"Legislation and policies should balance and protect the rights and responsibilities of all Australians regardless of cultural, linguistic, racial or religious background.

"The granting of Australian citizenship is symbolic of acceptance into the Australian community and is cherished by everyone in Australia's migrant communities.

"FECCA believes that Australians of CALD background should have the opportunity to become citizens as early as possible in their migration journey," Ms Patetsos said.

FECCA is the national peak body representing Australians from 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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