

International Women's Day

The Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) said today that International Women's Day was an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of women world-wide and to reflect on the challenges which remain.

The Chairperson of FECCA, Ms Mary Patetsos said that FECCA, as the peak body representing culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) people in Australia, was keenly aware of the issues facing CALD women.

"We've come a long way and women of CALD background should be proud of what they've achieved in their new country. However, we are determined to work hard to achieve equal opportunity for women in all aspects of life including employment, healthcare, aged care services, housing and transport," Ms Patetsos said.

The Women's Chair of FECCA, Ms Sandra Elhelw Wright, said that equal access to employment remained a key issue for CALD women.

"Employment is an important part of the settlement process, providing migrant and refugee women with access to economic security and interaction with the broader community," Ms Elhelw Wright said.

"Achieving secure jobs and the opportunities for advancement of the women we represent is a major focus of our work."

Ms Elhelw Wright said that FECCA believed Australia should eliminate all discrimination and harassment against women, whether on the grounds of gender, religion, sexual orientation, marital status, race, ethnicity or age.

"FECCA works actively with a broad range of organisations, including the Australian Public Service Commission, to examine ways to ensure CALD women are represented in senior levels of public and private organisations," Ms Elhelw Wright said.

"And we are proud to have a female Chairperson of FECCA, the national peak body representing Australia's CALD communities."

FECCA is the national peak body representing Australia's culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities and their organisations. FECCA provides advocacy, develops policy and promotes issues on behalf of its constituency to Government and the broader community.

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