

Welcome announcement as Government increases intake of Syrian refugees

The Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) welcomes the Australian Government's commitment to offer permanent protection to 12,000 Syrian refugees, in response to this global refugee crisis.

FECCA Chair Joe Caputo said, "It is very encouraging to see the Prime Minister increase the refugee resettlement numbers in order to respond effectively to this growing humanitarian crisis. We believe Australia can play an important role rebuilding their lives."

We applaud the Government's commitment today, but call for a longer-term vision with sustainable, equitable and non-discriminatory humanitarian practices. With over 4 million people displaced by this crisis, it is important to have a humanitarian program, responsive to the refugee situation occurring across the world and that meets growing global needs for resettlement.

"FECCA would like to reaffirm the need to resettle all refugees identified by the UNHCR, regardless of their cultural, linguistic or religious background", said Mr Caputo.

We would also like to express our solidarity with the settlement sector, who are very well positioned to support an increased intake.

This increase in refugee resettlement will be well supported by the State Governments of New South Wales, South Australia, Tasmania, Queensland and Victoria (in particular), who have both the capacity and will to provide assistance. In addition, there is strong support for refugee resettlement in regional centres, with its huge social, cultural and economic potential.

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