

21 May 2015

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trading,
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Via email : Victoria.Kuczer@dfat.gov.au

Submission for the draft CERD report

FECCA recommends the following amendments/explanations in relation to the draft CERD report.

Concluding Observation 14

General comment

Elaborate further on addressing systemic issues and barriers experienced by migrants and refugees with regards to government service provision, including through implementation of the Multicultural Access and Equity Policy, especially in relation to government agencies' obligations, and provide some reflection on the adequacy of the current policy and any envisaged enhancement of its implementation.

Specific comments

Paragraph 56 –

Further clarity on the statement on '*committing around \$ 545 million for multicultural communities for four years*' would be more useful. Especially whether this amount was granted for specific programs, community organisations, etc.

It would be useful to explain further as to the other engagement mechanisms/ measures adopted by the government to engage with multicultural communities.

Paragraph 57 –

Clarify whether the Australia's Social Inclusion Agenda is still in operation, and if not, elaborate further as to why the benchmarks provided under '*How Australia is Fairing*' report are still being used.

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