

# FECCAe-NEWS

The Newsletter of the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia

## WELCOME TO THE MAY / JUNE EDITION OF FECCA'S E-NEWS

It has been another busy month at FECCA as we move one month closer to the 2017 FECCA Conference in Darwin on the 8–10 October. This month we announced details of the FECCA Conference Youth Day, a first for FECCA, which will take place on Sunday, 8 October and involve young people and those working with CALD youth from the NT and across the country. More details can be found [here](#). If you would like to be involved in the FECCA Conference make sure you get your abstract in on time—the closing date is the 26 July and notification of acceptance for successful abstracts will take place in early August. We are looking for abstracts that cover a wide range of topics and we want to be inspired by the creativity of our diverse and vibrant Australian community. I look forward to reading your abstract!

The month of May marked the 50th anniversary of the 1967 Referendum where more than 90 per cent of Australian voters chose 'Yes' to count Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Census and give the Australian Federal Government the power to make laws for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to assist in addressing inequalities. To mark this occasion, FECCA was fortunate to have Derek Hardman, Senior Advisor on Diversity and Engagement from Reconciliation Australia, come and talk to the Executive Committee in Canberra. FECCA believes that multiculturalism begins with recognising the rights and place in society held by Australia's first Peoples and the rich cultural heritage that their

communities have long nurtured. Following Derek's presentation, the FECCA Executive unanimously passed a motion that stated:

*The FECCA Executive face-to-face meeting coincided with the 50th anniversary of the 1967 Referendum. At the meeting, FECCA heard from a representative of Reconciliation Australia. FECCA fully endorses the **Uluru Statement from the Heart**. FECCA unconditionally supports the moves to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australia's Constitution and deal with the racial discrimination in the Constitution. In all of its work, FECCA will seek to ensure that the interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are recognised and included.*

*Continues on page 2*

# WELCOME TO THE MAY / JUNE EDITION OF FECCA'S E-NEWS *continued*

FECCA was one of the organisations invited to attend the federal budget lockup and on the evening of the budget we were able to quickly respond and send out a message to our constituents highlighting the key aspects of the budget that have particular implications for CALD communities. As someone who has been a long-time advocate in the aged care and disability sector, I am particularly concerned about the enhanced residency requirements for the Age Pension and Disability Support Pension that will require claimants to have up to 15 years of continuous Australian residence to be eligible to receive these key supports. FECCA believes that migrant Australians should not be punished in their older age or because they require support for living with a disability and FECCA will fervently oppose these measures. More commentary on the budget is included in this newsletter.

The FECCA Secretariat has submitted a number of responses to inquiries and consultations in the past month on a range of key issues for CALD communities including the Family Law System, the National Ageing and Aged Care Strategy for People from CALD Backgrounds, Australian's Humanitarian Intake and the Inquiry into Strengthening Multiculturalism in Australia. The Inquiry into Strengthening Multiculturalism in Australia brings a welcome space to talk about the many benefits that multiculturalism has gifted Australia. We have taken the opportunity to discuss the contribution that multiculturalism has made to Australia and how Australia can make the most of productive diversity to advance our culture, society and economy. We look forward to the constructive debate that we believe this Inquiry will inspire.

And don't forget to submit your abstract for the 2017 FECCA Conference!



**Joseph Caputo OAM JP**  
Chairperson

**Federation of Ethnic Communities'  
Councils of Australia (FECCA)**

# FECCA NEWS

## FECCA Conference



### FECCA 2017 YOUTH DAY AT THE FECCA 2017 CONFERENCE

The FECCA 2017 National Biennial Conference—Celebrate. Reflect. Advance: Our Multicultural Australia—will be held in Darwin, NT, on 8–10 October 2017. This year's conference will be organised jointly by the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) and the Multicultural Council of the Northern Territory (MCNT).

For the first time ever, we have designated the first day of the conference as Youth Day. Youth Day will feature a range of speakers covering a broad spectrum of topics relating to young people. This is an outstanding opportunity for young people to meet and interact with high profile stakeholders, policy makers, and advocates working in the multicultural space at a Federal and State/Territory level.

We are looking to attract as many as 400 participants from NT and other states and territories, to ensure a lively and productive debate on issues of major

importance to Australia's multicultural agenda, now and into the future. This remarkable event is the nation's preeminent multicultural forum and it showcases Australia's important achievements in promoting multicultural principles and practices.

FECCA is committed to hearing the voices of young multicultural Australians and their partner organisations. Culturally and linguistically diverse youth are encouraged to register for the Youth Day (8 Oct) and to submit an abstract to present a paper, workshop or panel on a theme or topic relating to youth issues. Abstract submissions and registrations are now open on the [conference website](#).

For queries or for clarification of anything relating to the FECCA Conference or Youth Day, please contact the FECCA Secretariat, Dr Alia Imtoul, on 02 6282 5755 or at [alia@fecca.org.au](mailto:alia@fecca.org.au).

# FECCA NEWS

## FECCA responds to the Federal Budget

FECCA issued a response to the federal budget highlighting a number of measures that will have a disproportionate and negative impact on Australia's migrant communities including the enhanced residency requirements for the Age Pension and Disability Support Pension that will require claimants to have up to 15 years of continuous Australian residence to be eligible to receive these key supports. Also announced in the budget, the

Skilling Australians Fund Levy, is a levy on employers who nominate workers for certain temporary and permanent visas. The levy will provide funds to support skills development in the Australian workforce. FECCA is concerned that this kind of measure implies that migrant workers are responsible for Australia's skills gap and threatens social cohesion. For our full response see [here](#).

## FECCA appears before the Standing Committee on Community Affairs' Reference Committee to give evidence on the Centrelink Welfare Debt Compliance Letters

Following FECCA's submission to the Inquiry on the Better Management of the Social Welfare System Initiative, FECCA was invited to give evidence to the committee on the automated sending out of welfare

debt compliance letters and its impact on CALD communities. The opening statement made by the FECCA Director to the Committee can be found [here](#).

## FECCA makes major submission to the Select Committee Inquiry on Strengthening Multiculturalism

In our submission to this important Inquiry, FECCA took the opportunity to celebrate Australia's diversity, the importance of respectful discourse, and the symbolic and practical measures required to enhance cohesion. FECCA discussed the importance of improving CALD representation in leadership roles and ensuring that CALD voices are heard across the private and public sector.

FECCA highlighted the impact of racism on the Australian community including the emotional and psychological harm caused by discrimination and the importance of positive leadership in public life presenting examples such as SBS, the AHRC and a number of sporting codes and personalities. FECCA also took this opportunity to call for a National Languages Policy and a Federal Multicultural Act. For the full submission see [here](#).

## Australia's Humanitarian Programme 2017–2018

Australia's humanitarian programme gives refuge to people escaping persecution and war. FECCA supports any increase to Australia's humanitarian intake. In its submission FECCA called for the places available under the Community Support Program to be allocated in addition to the proposed expansion of Australia's

Humanitarian Programme. FECCA also suggested that incentives and acknowledgement be provided for businesses demonstrating diversity in their workforce to include humanitarian entrants. See [here](#) for the full submission.

# FECCA NEWS

## FECCA contributes to the Review of the National Ageing and Aged Care Strategy for People from CALD Backgrounds

FECCA welcomed the support for CALD ageing and aged care provided by the Australian Government in the form of the development of the *National Ageing and Aged Care Strategy for people from CALD backgrounds* in 2012. The Strategy provides a comprehensive framework for attending to the needs of CALD ageing and aged care.

FECCA took this opportunity to provide a detailed review of the aged care sector and its performance in meeting the needs of CALD Australians in line with the strategy. Find our full [submission](#) and accompanying [media release](#) on the FECCA website.

## FECCA speaks up for CALD Australians in the Family Law System

Family law proceedings are, by nature, a source of heightened distress. Yet further distress is experienced by those for whom language and culture are an issue and the institutional knowledge required to negotiate proceedings is reduced. FECCA made a number of recommendations to improve the experience of CALD

Australians in the Family Law System including increased funding for legal aid services; the provision of fully accredited translators in all family law matters where the issue of language is of relevance; and the need to increase cultural diversity and awareness among staff in the judicial sector. For our full submission see [here](#).

# STAKEHOLDER UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES

## Helping migrant and CALD workers to protect themselves from exploitation



## Fair Work OMBUDSMAN

It has never been easier for Australian workers and their employers to obtain information or provide intelligence about their workplaces, with three of the Fair Work Ombudsman's newest online tools.

Three different online functions make it as easy as possible for Australians to understand and protect their workplace rights, automatically record your hours at work, access information on your workplace rights and obligations or provide anonymous intelligence about a potential breach.

The Record My Hours smartphone app, which uses geofencing technology to provide an automatic record of hours spent at work, has proven to be a strong success since it was launched two months ago.

The **Record My Hours app** is available for download from iTunes or Google Play stores.

## ANU Humanitarian Scholarship

Each year the Australian National University may offer a scholarship known as the ANU Humanitarian Scholarship. The objective of the award is to provide financial support to provide access to higher education for students from a refugee background.

The award is available each year to a prospective ANU student who:

- is an International student and holds a Temporary Protection Visa, or a Safe Haven Enterprise Visa, or is an Asylum Seeker on Bridging Visa Type A or E; and
- has been accepted into, and is enrolling in an ANU Undergraduate degree program.

The scholarship provides a \$5,000 stipend. The duration of the award is up to four years based on full-time study.

For those looking to receive rather than provide information, the PACT has been a first point of call for reliable advice on wages and entitlements.

The tool combines pay, shift and leave calculators with an intuitive interface for mobile devices. It can locate the correct Modern Award for an employee's position and quickly determine what wages apply, including any overtime, penalty rates or allowances payable. Wages can be worked out per hour, per shift or for an entire pay period. PACT can also determine the entitlements payable when employees resign or are terminated, including wages in lieu of notice, leave and redundancy pay.

The **PACT** can be accessed at [www.calculate.fairwork.gov.au](http://www.calculate.fairwork.gov.au).

The Anonymous Report function was launched in May last year and has proven to be a valuable source of information helping the Agency confirm and identify trends.

The **Anonymous Report** function can be accessed at [www.fairwork.gov.au/tipoff](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/tipoff).

Employers and employees can seek assistance at [www.fairwork.gov.au](http://www.fairwork.gov.au) or contact the Fair Work Infoline on **13 13 94**. A free interpreter service is available on **13 14 50**.

[Apply now](#)



Australian National University

# STAKEHOLDER UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES

## 2nd Advancing Community Cohesion Conference 20–22 November in Parramatta

The 2nd Advancing Community Cohesion Conference will bring together Australian and international delegates to consider the broad range of challenges to social cohesion. Delegates will include government ministers and senior government officials, academics and researchers from universities and research centres, leaders and practitioners from the private sector and

civil society, as well as religious leaders and scholars. The sharing of expertise, experiences and lessons learned at the Conference will focus on identifying solutions to the challenges which can inform policies and strategies, and ultimately facilitate better functioning communities at all levels. For more information see [here](#).



The banner features a blue background with a white logo of three stylized figures holding hands. To the right of the logo, the text reads "ACCC 2017 Advancing Community Cohesion Conference Today's Challenges and Solutions". In the top right corner, the Western Sydney University logo is displayed. Below the banner, the text "20–22 NOVEMBER 2017 / [www.advancingcommunitycohesionconference.com.au](http://www.advancingcommunitycohesionconference.com.au)" is shown.

## Change to Country of origin labelling for food introduced by the Australian Government

For many years, Australians have been demanding changes to origin claims on food labels—to be clearer, more meaningful, accurate and easier to find.

The Australian Government is introducing new food labels to make it clearer where the products you buy are grown, produced, made or packed.

Easy to understand labels will tell you at a glance where a product comes from, so you can make a clear and informed decision about the food you buy.

Most food produced, grown or made in Australia will have the kangaroo logo. Text and a bar chart will indicate the percentage of Australian ingredients.

Food that was packed in Australia will only feature a bar chart that shows the percentage of Australian ingredients. For imported foods, the label will clearly show the country of origin.

To see the new food labels, read the fact sheet or watch the animated information video, click the [link](#) below which will take you to information in a number of languages including English, Arabic, Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Korean, Greek, Italian, Spanish, Filipino, and Hindi.

[foodlabels.industry.gov.au/campaign.html#cald](http://foodlabels.industry.gov.au/campaign.html#cald)

See what you're getting.

## Welcoming Cities

*Local government creating cohesive, more inclusive communities.* The public draft of [The Australian Standard for Welcoming Cities](#) will provide a best practice accreditation framework in cultural diversity and

inclusion practices. You and/or your organisation have one more month to comment on the draft; until 30 June 2017. Learn more [here](#).

# STAKEHOLDER UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES

## 2nd Annual Asia Australian Leadership Summit: 18–21 July 2017, Sydney

The 2nd Annual Asian Australian Leadership Summit is Australia's only dedicated professional development event specifically designed to develop Asian Australian leaders. Through anecdotal case studies from inspiring Asian Australian leaders and expert advice from diversity and cross-cultural specialists, this event will equip Asian Australian leaders with the tools they need to overcome the barriers on the path to leadership.

Online Brochure and Tickets available at:

[http://liquidlearninggroup.com/documents/AAL0717A/AAL0717A\\_W.pdf](http://liquidlearninggroup.com/documents/AAL0717A/AAL0717A_W.pdf)



## New resources for CALD communities on Advanced Care Planning

Welcome to an inclusive website for advance care planning.

Over the last few months, Advance Care Planning Australia (ACPA) has been busy building a **brand-new website** so that you can find best practice resources, education and training for advance care planning—all in the one easy-to-find hub.

The new site includes bilingual factsheets in 12 languages to support advance care planning in culturally and linguistically diverse communities. All of these resources have been developed with community consultation and approval.

We're also developing advance care planning learning programs to support culturally sensitive practice.

Visit **ACP Learning** to access existing resources and stay tuned for new learning modules in the next few months.

Our Advance Care Planning telephone advisory service is open from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday. Call 1300 208 582 or 13 14 50 for telephone interpreting services.

This is only the beginning. With your help, the new ACPA website will continue to grow and improve. We urge you to explore the site and **send us your feedback** so that we can continue to make improvements.

[Visit the new ACPA website](#)

## How can councils and our communities better welcome refugees?

Following a national consultation process, the Refugee Council of Australia will hold an Inaugural Refugee Welcome Zone Forum. The aim of the forum is to learn, share best practice examples, build collaboration and better understand how communities can support the settlement of refugees. The forum will help delegates prepare their communities for effective resettlement

and ensure a welcoming environment where all are best-placed to benefit. Delegates at the forum will hear from councils, international experts and refugees themselves. Lodge your expression of interest on **the Refugee Council of Australia website** as places are strictly limited.

# STAKEHOLDER UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES

## Invitation to a special event: Australians Of The Year – Inspiring Change In Human Rights

Join us for the Australians of the Year Human Rights event!



Event details:

- Wednesday 14 June from 5:30 to 7pm. Doors open at 5pm.
- Sydney Town Hall, 483 George St, Sydney NSW

Introduced by the President of the Australian Human Rights Commission, **Professor Gillian Triggs**, and presented by ABC's **Kumi Taguchi**, these four remarkable Australians will share their inspiring stories and views on human rights issues.

Register > [www.australianoftheyear.org.au/rightstalk](http://www.australianoftheyear.org.au/rightstalk)

2017 Australians of the Year: Inspiring Change in Human Rights panellists include FECCA Executive Member and Chairperson of ECCQ, **Yasmin Khan**, 2017 QLD Australia's Local Hero. Yasmin is a dedicated diversity champion—working with schools, media and community groups to enhance their understanding of Islam. She also advocates for victims of domestic violence.

## Community approved translations

Raise your hand if you've ever had to handle a translation project on behalf of your organisation. If you're like most people, it's probably landed on your desk with not much warning, a tight deadline and a limited budget. Most likely, managing translation is not even in your job description.

There are over fifty language services providers in Australia. From one-man operators to government departments, the translation industry is diverse and unregulated. Quality in translation is difficult to measure. But engaging translation buyers in a conversation about it the real challenge. If your hand is still up, you won't be surprised to learn that what matters to most organisations is the cost: many simply choose the lowest quote and tick the relevant box. It's only when things go wrong that hard questions are being asked and quality of translation comes up.

So how do you approach this complex task? How do you select the right translation company? How can you

tell that your translations are of good quality? How do you know you are getting value for money? But most importantly, how can you ensure your translated materials will help you communicate with your target audiences?

Over the years, at Polaron, we have developed a philosophy and a process around translation aimed at Australian multicultural audiences. We believe that having the relevant communities involved at every step of the way not only improves the quality of the translated collateral but it also informs the communities about your services or programs. We believe in only working with Australia-based, NAATI accredited translators. And our translations are always checked by a second language professional, as well as an ethno-specific community organisation. It is a consultative, structured process that assures the quality of the translations we deliver.

For more information about Community Approved Translations, email us at [translations@polaron.com.au](mailto:translations@polaron.com.au) or call us on 1300 88 55 61.

# STAKEHOLDER UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES

## Bystander reactions to violence against women

The 'bystander reactions to violence against women' national survey aims to inform a campaign to encourage bystanders to act and seek help if they hear screams or cries of distress in homes. The survey wants to hear and learn from all Australians; differing ages, backgrounds and gender.

This project has been approved by the University of South Australia's Human Research Ethics Committee and is led by Dr Elspeth McInnes.

If you are aged 18 or over and an Australian resident or citizen, you are invited to participate. It is an anonymous, online survey (approximately 15 minutes to complete) and your view will assist.

**WARNING:** The survey questions may prompt you to recall distressing events. Please call Lifeline 131144 if you are feeling distressed.

To link to the survey [click here](#).

## Australia Post mail redirection for special circumstances



 [auspost.com.au](http://auspost.com.au)

### Mail redirection for special circumstances

As part of Australia Post's support of the community, we will be expanding the free mail redirection offers for special circumstances to include support for Victims of Domestic and Family Violence.

Eligible customers can apply in store to receive a redirection service from your old address to your new address within Australia for up to 12 months.

#### How to apply for free mail redirection

Apply at any Post Office in Australia. You'll need to bring:

-  Completed mail redirection form – available in store.
-  Individual proof of identity.
-  Either an intervention order, statutory declaration from the relevant state police on police letterhead, or document on an approved letterhead from a supporting relevant agency (i.e. health service).

Personal information will be handled securely and confidentially by our trained staff.

For more information visit  
[auspost.com.au/parcels-mail/manage-your-mail/redirect-hold-mail/redirect-mail](http://auspost.com.au/parcels-mail/manage-your-mail/redirect-hold-mail/redirect-mail)