

FECCAe-NEWS

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

WELCOME TO THE AUGUST EDITION OF FECCA'S E-NEWS

Message from the Acting Chairperson, Eugenia Grammatikakis



Professor Andrew Markus, Nick Tebbey SCOA CEO, Eugenia Grammatikakis FECCA Acting Chair, Senator Richard Di Natale, Dr Emma Campbell FECCA Director, Senator the Hon Lisa Singh at the Strengthening Multiculturalism Senate Inquiry in Bendigo.

Welcome to our August edition of FECCA's e-News. I am delighted to again have the opportunity to give the welcome to this month's issue.

FECCA has made a number of significant submissions this month to parliamentary inquiries on topics including aged care, citizenship, parliamentary e-petitions and penalty rates. FECCA also attended some major conferences and events including

the Multicultural Women's Health Conference in Brisbane, DIBP's Innovation Summit and the Migrant Workers' Taskforce Roundtable. The Director visited the Northern Territory, hosted by the Multicultural Council of the NT, in preparation for the forthcoming FECCA Conference in Darwin, 8-10 October. Also, at the beginning of August, the FECCA Director and I gave evidence at the Strengthening Multiculturalism Inquiry in Bendigo (pictured above).

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WELCOME TO THE AUGUST EDITION OF FECCA'S E-NEWS *continued*

FECCA has been actively campaigning against the proposed new citizenship bill including a submission to the current Senate Inquiry into the legislation. FECCA also encouraged other community organisations to make submissions to the Senate Inquiry and we are delighted that so many organisations have responded by making their voices heard and detailing how the new rules will affect members of their community. Extending the waiting period for permanent residents from one year to at least four years before eligibility for citizenship and increasing the English language requirement will have detrimental impact on the most vulnerable new members of our society. In turn this will damage the social cohesion and harmony that exists in our multicultural Australian society. This Bill will create a permanent underclass of Australian residents who will be denied the rights and opportunities of being welcomed and included as Australian citizens.

Last week, 30 July – 6 August, was DonateLife week in Australia organised by the Organ and Tissue Authority. FECCA urges all Australians to make their donation decision count by joining the Australian Organ Donor Register at donatelife.gov.au. With around 1,400

Australians currently on transplant waiting lists, and a further 12,000 people on dialysis, we need to optimise every donation opportunity to save more lives. FECCA encourages all ethnic and migrant communities to discuss the importance of organ and tissue donations in their communities and families.

This month Australia, including FECCA, paid tribute to Les Murray. The renowned SBS broadcaster, who died last week, played a major role on the development of football in Australia. A refugee from Hungary, he was an advocate for the rights of other migrants and refugees calling for protection and justice. He will be remembered as a great man who was an inspiration to Australians of all cultural and sporting backgrounds.

It is very important that all of our communities make their voices heard by making submissions to highlight the concerns of Australia's many ethnic and migrant communities. If you or your organisation need support or advice in preparing a submission to a parliamentary inquiry you can [contact FECCA](#).

I wish you all the very best for the coming month and be assured that FECCA will continue to work hard to advocate on behalf of Australia's diverse community.

Eugenia Grammatikakis

Acting Chairperson

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



FECCA NEWS

FECCA Conference 2017

Celebrate. Reflect. Advance: Our Multicultural Australia



The biannual FECCA conference is getting closer and we are delighted to add to our speaker list of confirmed speakers:

- Professor Andrew Jakubowicz, Professor, Social and Political Science, UTS
- Maria Pallotta-Chiarolli, Senior Lecturer in Social Diversity in Health and Education School of Health and Social Development, Deakin University
- Teresa Corbin, Chief Executive Officer, ACCAN
- Dr Monica Trujillo, Executive General Manager, Australian Digital Health Agency

It has been announced that SBS personality Patrick Abboud will be the host for the youth day.

FECCA is also excited to be able to offer a scholarship program to attend and actively participate in the three day conference. The successful recipients will have access to all Conference sessions (excluding the Gala Dinner), explore issues of interest, discuss their emerging ideas with experienced actors in the sector, network, and establish connections for the future.

Expressions of interest are sought from individuals who are keen to engage with the multicultural sector and who are otherwise unable to attend the Conference due to financial reasons. We particularly encourage applications from:

- Those who recently entered Australia on humanitarian visas
- Women
- Unwaged or those with valid concession cards (particularly Aged Pensioners)
- People living with disability

For more information on the scholarship program and how to apply, [click here](#).

For registration to the conference [click here](#)

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

FECCA NEWS

FECCA makes a submission into the Australian Citizenship Legislation Amendment Bill

FECCA continues to campaign against the new citizenship bill and made a submission to the Senate Inquiry examining the Australian Citizenship Legislation Amendment (Strengthening the Requirements for Australian Citizenship and Other Measures) Bill 2017 which strongly opposes the introduction of the Bill.

FECCA has engaged with the community on this issue including community forums in Canberra and Hobart,

and consultations with key community representatives in Darwin. FECCA has also written to key members of the Senate. This legislation will dramatically change the rules determining qualification for Australian citizenship, extending the waiting period and raising the English language requirement for citizenship. [Click here](#) to see the full submission.

FECCA gives evidence to the Strengthening Multiculturalism Inquiry in Bendigo

FECCA's Acting Chairperson, Eugenia Grammatikakis gave evidence to the Strengthening Multiculturalism Inquiry which had hearings in Bendigo, Victoria. In her opening statement, Ms Grammatikakis urged

'political leaders to facilitate constructive dialogue and cross cultural understanding' and to build 'a national movement for strengthening multiculturalism in Australia'.

FECCA launches the Positive CALD Ageing Network (PCAN) Newsletter

The PCAN newsletter aims to reflect the voice of Australians who are aging in a land where they were not born. FECCA is proud to represent the voices of aging people from CALD backgrounds and pleased to be able to launch this newsletter. PCAN is a bi-monthly newsletter dedicated to building the capacity of the

aged-care sector to provide appropriate care and support to older Australians from CALD backgrounds and recognises that a significant proportion of aged-care employees are from multicultural backgrounds. For more information and to see the first issue, [click here](#).

FECCA Director visits Multicultural Council of the Northern Territory and meets with Minister for Territory Families, the Hon Dale Wakefield MLA

In preparation for the FECCA conference, FECCA Director, Dr Emma Campbell, met with the Minister for Territory Families – who also has responsibility for multicultural affairs – to discuss the issues affecting

the NT's diverse communities and to thank the NT Government for their support for the 2017 FECCA Conference which will take place in Darwin, 8-10 October 2017.

FECCA makes submission into the e-petitioning system of the House of Representatives Petitions Committee inquiry.

FECCA encourages the Federal Parliament to update their website to make it more accessible to the Australian public. In particular, improvements should include provision of information in other languages

than English, use of symbols to reduce text density, plain English instruction, and providing support in other languages than English via telephone or chat. To see the full submission, [click here](#).

FECCA NEWS

FECCA makes submission to the Senate Inquiry into Penalty Rates

In this submission, FECCA argued that cuts to weekend penalty rates would have a disproportionate impact on vulnerable CALD workers. FECCA believes that supporting small businesses, including the participation of Australians of migrant and CALD backgrounds in

the small business sector, should not be done at the expense of vulnerable workers including those of CALD and migrant backgrounds. To see the full submission, [click here](#).

FECCA makes submission into the review of the National Aged Care Quality Regulatory Process

FECCA is the peak body for older CALD Australians and in this submission, FECCA noted that processes to accredit and monitor residential aged care services generally do not cater adequately for the needs of ageing Australians from a CALD background. FECCA

highlighted that the absence of culturally appropriate aged care is a high risk to a CALD older person's health and wellbeing and urged for regulatory processes to be better designed to protect the interests of CALD older people. To see the full submission, [click here](#)

FECCA attends the Multicultural Women's Health Conference in Brisbane

FECCA attended the Evidence for Equity – Multicultural Women's Reproductive and Sexual Health Conference in Brisbane 31 July-1 Aug. Statistics show that migrant women often arrive in perfect health but outcomes significantly decrease 5-10 years after settlement. Speakers from a broad range of community groups and service providers spoke on the need to improve health outcomes for women of CALD backgrounds. Health

workers and researchers shared success stories from antenatal care, difibulation clinics, outreach programs with migrant sex workers, breast and blood-borne disease screenings for older CALD women, and use of interpreters in medical appointments. Many colleagues from across the country expressed interest in the FECCA 2017 Conference and many have already submitted abstracts. We look forward to seeing you in Darwin!

STAKEHOLDER UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Cyber Parent App

The Australian Multicultural Foundation has developed a web app called CyberParent which encourages safe and healthy internet use in Australian homes.

CyberParent equips parents with the knowledge and confidence to identify early warning signs and seek appropriate support from Australian service providers.

CyberParent covers topical issues such as:

- Internet terms and definitions
- Information about social media and descriptions of popular apps
- Information about different dangers for young people online e.g. cyberbullying, online gaming and grooming/recruitment
- Practical tips on healthy and safe internet use
- Where you can go for help

CyberParent can be accessed by all devices that have an internet connection but is optimised for use on tablets and smartphones.

CyberParent is available in a total of 17 different languages, including: English, Arabic, Chinese, Dari, Dinka, Farsi, German, Greek, Hindi, Indonesian, Italian, Pashto, Spanish, Somali, Turkish, Urdu and Vietnamese.

For more information and to access CyberParent, please visit <http://amf.net.au/cyberparent/>



Across National Conference

The ACOSS National Conference in partnership with VCOSS—Australia in 2030: Creating the Future we want—will be held in Melbourne, 24-25 October, 2017. Community leaders, policy and decision makers, practitioners, academics and people with lived experiences will come together to collectively tackle the issues driving poverty and inequality in Australia.

For more information and registration, [click here](#).



STAKEHOLDER UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Calling for nominations for the 2017 Human Rights Awards

The Human Rights Awards recognises and celebrates the extraordinary contributions of individuals, organisations and businesses in promoting and protecting human rights and freedoms each year. While some nominees might be well-known, most are ordinary people making a difference to human rights outcomes in their work or community.

Nominations close soon, so now is the time to put your hand up or nominate a person, community group or business for the Australian Human Rights Awards 2017.

Awards are available across eight categories – Human Rights Medal, Young People’s Human Rights Medal, Law Award, Community Organisation Award, Community Individual Award, Media Award, Business Award and Racism. It Stops with Me Award.

For more information, please visit the [Human Rights Awards website](#) or contact the Australian Human Rights Commission Awards team at hrawards@humanrights.gov.au. Nominations close on 4 September.



7th International Carers Conference

Globally we are heading towards a tipping point for unpaid family caring where there will be more people to care for than carers willing and able to take on the role. We all need to take stock of where we are at now and to reimagine what caring will look like into the future.

The 7th International Carers Conference, to be held at the Adelaide Convention Centre from 4 to 6 October this year, will provide the forum to discuss and debate these issues.

Hosted by [Carers Australia](#), *Caring into the Future: The New World?* will bring together national and international experts who will give us insights into intelligent, futuristic and inclusive technology, pioneering innovations, the digital health revolution, lived carer experience and leading-edge research.

To find out more, visit the [conference website](#).

STAKEHOLDER UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) introducing Scamwatch

The ACCC would like to share with you its recently translated information about scams in 12 languages other than English. This information is now available on the Scamwatch website:

scamwatch.gov.au/in-your-language

To ensure people from non-English speaking backgrounds can find out how to recognise, avoid and report scams, this information and some handy tips are now available in the following languages: Arabic, Chinese (simplified and traditional), Dari, Farsi, Hindi, Indonesian,

Korean, Spanish, Tagalog, Turkish, and Vietnamese.

The ACCC recognises that scams target people of all backgrounds, ages and income levels across Australia. **Scamwatch** aims to educate consumers and raise awareness about scams by providing all Australians with information and resources on how to spot them and protect themselves. People can also **report a scam** to the ACCC which helps them to warn people about current scams targeting the community, monitor trends and disrupt scams where possible.



Australian Bureau of Statistics to present 2016 census data in different languages

The ABS will host a series of free Census Data Seminars across Australia, revealing what the 2016 Census of Population and Housing tells us about ourselves, our communities and Australia. Seminars will provide an overview of: 2016 Census results; key findings specific to the seminar locations; understanding Census data; and Census data product support and guidance.

ABS has also produced a series of cultural diversity fact sheets relating to the 2016 Census. The fact sheets have been translated into a number of languages.

To find out more or register visit the [ABS website](#).



Welcoming Cities Initiative

Con Pagonis, a volunteer with the Ethnic Communities' Councils of Victoria (ECCV) and with the Welcoming Cities initiative has written an informative article on Building Tomorrow's Communities. In the article, Pagonis discusses settlement services for migrants and refugees in Australia and look at the recent Welcoming Cities initiative—an initiative of the Scanlon Foundation and

Welcome to Australia in partnership with Welcoming America. The initiative offers local councils and local community leaders the opportunity to leverage ideas and innovation that come from being welcoming and inclusive through a national support network. To read the full article, [click here](#).

STAKEHOLDER UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Fair Work Ombudsman with new in-language resources

The Fair Work Ombudsman has produced a number of relevant resources for migrant workers and other workers from CALD backgrounds with regards to workplace entitlements as well as a guide for employers hiring new employees and a guide to starting a new job.

The language resources can be found at www.fairwork.gov.au/languages

There are links available on the language help page to YouTube where you will find videos about working in Australia and employing staff, see

<https://www.youtube.com/user/FairWorkGovAu>

Don't forget the new **Record My Hours app** making it quick for employees to record and store the hours they work. It is available to download in 12 different languages. The app is free to download from either the Apple App Store or Google Play.

The **language storyboards** (short videos in various languages) have been developed to assist customers to understand their rights and obligations in Australian workplaces. To access our storyboards visit

<https://www.fairwork.gov.au/language-help/language-storyboards>

New information - Working in Australia on a visa

For employees in Australia on visa it is essential that they ensure their visa allows them to work in Australia and check for any conditions like the number of hours they are allowed to work. The Ombudsman advises that they have now set up an arrangement with the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) to support and encourage migrant workers to come forward to request assistance and provide the Ombudsman with any evidence or information about exploitation. This will help the Ombudsman better understand the issues faced by visa holders and migrant workers so that they can better educate employers and employees about

entitlements and obligations. They have come to an agreement with DIBP that a person's temporary visa will not be cancelled if they:

- Had an entitlement to work as part of their visa
- Believe they have been exploited at work
- Have reported the circumstances to us, and
- Are actively assisting us in an investigation.

This applies as long as:

- They commit to abiding by visa conditions in the future, and
- There is no other basis for visa cancellation (such as on national security, character, health or fraud grounds).

For temporary visa holders who don't have work entitlements attached to their visa, DIBP will consider the case on its merits. To read more about this new initiative, please visit <https://www.fairwork.gov.au/find-help-for/visa-holders-and-migrants>.

Anonymous Report

Occasionally businesses or employees deliberately break the law to try and get a competitive advantage. If you or your clients are concerned that someone isn't complying with workplace laws but don't want to get involved directly, you can report the issue to the Ombudsman anonymously. You can access the anonymous report here - <http://www.fairwork.gov.au/how-we-will-help/how-we-help-you/help-us-keep-workplaces-fair>



Fair Work
OMBUDSMAN

STAKEHOLDER UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Stepping Stones Program

The **Brotherhood of St Laurence**, in partnership with **Moonee Valley City Council** and the **City Of Whittlesea** are recruiting participants for the Stepping Stones program. Stepping Stones is a micro-enterprise program that works with women from multicultural backgrounds to develop, start and grow small business in Australia. It offers FREE financial literacy and small business training, workshops and mentor matching. They are now recruiting women living in Moonee Valley and Whittlesea who are interested in starting a small business.

The Stepping Stones program will start at:

- **Moonee Valley** - Wednesday 23rd August, at the Flemington Community Centre, 25 Mt Alexander Road, Flemington
- **Whittlesea** - Tuesday 22nd August, at the Epping Community Services Hub, 713 High Street, Epping.

Don't miss out!

For more information go to the Stepping Stones page on the Brotherhood of St Laurence's website and apply online, see [Stepping Stones](#)



Middle East Respiratory Syndrome – an announcement from the Department of Health

MIDDLE EAST RESPIRATORY SYNDROME CORONAVIRUS (MERS-CoV) INFORMATION FOR TRAVELLERS

KEEP THIS CARD

Coronaviruses are a group of viruses that are known to cause serious illness, such as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). MERS-CoV was first identified in the Middle East.

If you have recently returned from an area affected by MERS-CoV, you should:

- See your doctor immediately if you feel unwell and develop some or all of the symptoms, especially if you have a weakened immune system. Tell your doctor you have travelled.
- Talk to a Biosecurity Officer at your port of arrival if you feel unwell when you arrive in Australia.
- Keep this card for up to 14 days after you have left the MERS-CoV affected area as symptoms may take this long to develop.

Symptoms of MERS-CoV are:

- FEVER
- COUGH
- BREATHING DIFFICULTIES
- DIARRHOEA

For more information check the Australian Government website www.health.gov.au/MERS-coronavirus

STAKEHOLDER UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES

5th National Elder Abuse Conference



5TH NATIONAL ELDER ABUSE CONFERENCE

19-20 FEBRUARY 2018
SOFITEL SYDNEY WENTWORTH

REGISTER NOW!
TOGETHERMAKINGCHANGE.ORG.AU

together making change

Elder abuse affects at least 5% of Australians – that's more than 175,000 people.

By bringing together the community, frontline workers, researchers and academics, policy-makers, politicians, media and other professionals, we will make a change.

Hosted by:  Seniors Rights Service