

# FECCAe-NEWS

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

## WELCOME TO THE FEBRUARY EDITION OF FECCA E-NEWS



### Message from FECCA Chairperson, Ms Mary Patetsos

Welcome to the second issue of FECCA e-News for 2019. In February, FECCA attended the launch of the Aged Care Diversity Framework action plans by the Hon. Ken Wyatt, Minister for Senior Australians and Aged Care.

The action plans will act as a guiding resource that will assist government and aged care service providers to address specific barriers and challenges faced by older people with diverse characteristics and life experiences. In addition, action plans have been developed for consumers. FECCA is advocating with the Department of Health for the CALD Consumer Action Plan to be translated into a range of languages.

FECCA was a member of the Aged Care Sector Committee Diversity Sub-Group, which helped to develop the action plans. The Sub-Group discussed matters relating to older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, older people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and older lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender diverse, and intersex elders, with the expectation of more plans to come.

In January this year, FECCA wrote to the Royal Commission into aged care to highlight the importance of the Commission hearing of the experiences of CALD people. In particular, FECCA wanted to seek clarification of language services available to people with limited English proficiency to assist them engaging with, or making submissions to, the Royal Commission. In response, the Royal Commission has confirmed that their website will shortly include information in languages other than English. The website will also indicate how people can

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# WELCOME TO THE FEBRUARY EDITION OF FECCA E-NEWS *continued*

access a free interpreter service when contacting the Royal Commission by phone. Most significantly, the Royal Commission has indicated that it will accept submissions in languages other than English. FECCA is currently working on a tool kit to assist organisations working with older CALD people, their families and carers to explain what a Royal Commission is, what a submission is and how to make one, and why it is important that the experience of CALD people is heard.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that FECCA's National Conference will take place from 9-11 October and will be held in Hobart, Tasmania. It will be a particularly exciting conference, as we will also

be celebrating 40 years of FECCA. I would like to invite everyone to submit their abstracts [here](#). Submissions will close on Friday 7 June.

Together with the FECCA Board and Secretariat, I wish you an enjoyable reading of the second FECCA e-news for 2019. We thoroughly enjoy your continued support and hard work as we all work to ensure Australia remains a harmonious and successful multicultural society.

**Mary Patetsos**  
Chairperson

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

In April 2018, FECCA lodged its submission regarding the Australian Citizenship Legislation Amendment (Strengthening the Commitment for Australian Citizenship and Other Measures) Bill 2018. The bill currently calls for the strengthening of citizenship requirements, including English language proficiency; the definition of 'spouse' and 'de facto partner'; citizenship by adoption; automatic acquisition of citizenship; citizenship by conferral; residence requirements for citizenship; mandatory and discretionary cancellation of approval of citizenship; and ministerial discretion to delay the making of the pledge of allegiance.

FECCA strongly opposes the introduction of this legislation that will dramatically change the rules determining qualification for Australian citizenship.

FECCA believes that demanding higher levels of English to qualify for citizenship will prevent many deserving Australian permanent residents the chance to become full Australian citizens. It unfairly targets some of the most vulnerable arrivals in Australia including migrants of refugee background and women.

Secondly, it is in the tradition of Australia's immigration system, that Australian permanent residents should be encouraged to seek citizenship as soon as practically possible to foster a sense of inclusion and encourage integration. Citizenship is not only an offer of welcome

by a host nation; it is also an expression of commitment by an arriving migrant and a compact between the two. Anything which delays or deters this should be resisted.

FECCA is concerned that many elements of this legislation have a disproportionate and negative impact upon vulnerable humanitarian entrants and their families who may have suffered significant trauma and already face many barriers and challenges to their life in Australia.

On 11 February, FECCA was invited to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee in order to discuss its submission further. The senate hearing can be viewed [here](#).

Currently, there are no proposed amendment to the bill.



# FECCA NEWS

## Events attended by FECCA staff:

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FECCA attended the launch of the **Aged Care Diversity Framework action plans** at Parliament House on 14 February with Minister Ken Wyatt.



FECCA Policy Officer, Lauren Stark, attended the **Economic Security for All Women (eS4W) Roundtable** held in Canberra on 12 February. The event was focused around how Australian women from CALD backgrounds face a range of specific challenges which often impact negatively on their economic and financial security. These challenges were discussed by the panel. The panel consisted of Stephen Koukoulas, Sandra Wright Women's Chair of FECCA, Dr Merrindah Andrew from Australian Women Against Violence Alliance (AWAVA), Lavanya Kala from Harmony Alliance and Margherita Coppolino, President of National Ethnic Disability Alliance (NEDA).



On 19 February, Senior Policy Officer, Dr. Janecke Wille attended the launch of the 'Barriers and Exclusions: The support needs of newly arrived refugees with a disability' report at the **Refugee Alternatives Conference** in Adelaide. The report is a collaboration between RCOA, SCOA, NEDA and FECCA.



FECCA staff attended the Refugee Alternatives conference in Adelaide on 18-19 February. The conference brought together a broad range of expertise from across the country and across the world and covered topics of displacement, protection, cooperation, wellbeing, resilience and unity.



# FECCA NEWS

FECCA staff attended the **Second National Dowry Abuse Summit** on 22 February. It was hosted by the Australasian Centre for Human Rights and Health at UNSW. The summit discussed the nature of dowry abuse, discovered commonalities and differences between communities, and explored the mental and physical impact it has on women.

FECCA's biennial conference will be held from 9 – 11 October 2019. Save the date and register your interest in attending via the button below. FECCA 2019 will bring together an array of community leaders, advocates, stakeholders and service providers along with culturally and linguistically diverse Australians from across the country.

FECCA 2019 will include rich variety of panels, workshops, speakers and debates to discuss the experiences of women, older people, communities

living in rural and regional areas, people with disability and new and emerging communities.

The theme for 2019 is

**Purpose. Leadership. Progress.**

**FECCA: 40 years and beyond**

Don't miss out – submit your abstract below.

[Submit Abstract](#)

[FECCA Conference 2019](#)

**CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**

**NOW  
OPEN**

Submission Deadline:

**FRIDAY**

21 JUNE 2019



**FECCA2019**  
9 - 11 October 2019 | Tasmania  
**Hotel Grand Chancellor Hobart**  
Purpose, Leadership, Progress,  
FECCA: 40 years and beyond



# FECCA NEWS



## FECCA NEEDS YOUR VOICE

FECCA publishes its national magazine, *Australian Mosaic*, three times a year. *Australian Mosaic* is a plain English magazine, which presents a wide range of contemporary issues associated with multiculturalism, social justice, community harmony, and cultural and faith pluralism in Australia.

The next issue, issue 51, is due to be released in April 2019 and we call on all of you for your ideas and stories on how to make this a great one. The theme of the next issue is **Australian Values**.

How do you and your community define Australian values? Can they be defined? Are Australian values any different from other country's values, or indeed human values?

Australia is made up of people from numerous backgrounds and we are often referred to as the most

successful multicultural nation in the world—how does this happen? What do we share that connects us and makes us want to work for a common good? What have you brought with you from your country of origin that reflects what you consider Australian values, or might shape future Australian values?

We at FECCA believe that Australia's many migrant communities are the ones shaping Australia's values today and for the future. We would like to hear your story, your ideas, your projects involving Australia's migrant communities and working for a harmonious future Australia.

If you have ideas, please contact [janecke@fecca.org.au](mailto:janecke@fecca.org.au) and we can discuss how your idea can be part of FECCA's next *Australian Mosaic*.



# FECCA NEWS

## In February 2019 FECCA made the following submissions:

### Submission for Streamlined Consumer Assessment for Aged Care

This month, FECCA submitted its feedback for the government's new aged care services framework that will be delivered by 2020. In particular, FECCA advocated for the importance of having a culturally competent assessment workforce and ensuring that the assessment process is easily accessible for older people of CALD background.

### Submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs Inquiry into ParentsNext.

FECCA called for an independent review and evaluation of the ParentsNext program with a focus on the Targeted Compliance Framework. New parents take on an extensive range of caring responsibilities and the compulsory nature of the program and its reporting requirements will only increase the burden and stress on new parents. These issues are amplified for those new parents who are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

### Barriers and Exclusions: The support needs of newly arrived refugees with a disability

This report focuses on the experience of refugee and humanitarian entrants arriving in Australia with a disability. Due to policy changes in 2012, an increased number of refugees with disabilities were granted visas. However, the increase of people with disabilities arriving in Australia has not been met with appropriate funding and policies to fully support their resettlement and inclusion in Australian society. Without access to vital services, new arrivals with a disability will continue to be excluded

Click [here](#) to read all FECCA submissions

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## In February 2019 FECCA made the following press releases:

FECCA welcomed the launch of the first Aged Care Diversity Action Plan for CALD Australians.

FECCA welcomed launch of Aged Care System Navigator trails

FECCA expressed disappointment at the language used by Nationals Senator Barry O'Sullivan during a Senate estimates hearing in Canberra.

FECCA welcomed Federal Minister for Senior Australians and Aged Care Ken Wyatt's backing for the continuation of the Commonwealth Home Support Programme beyond 2020.

FECCA expressed deep concern about the significant delays being experienced by migrants who are seeking to become Australian citizens.

FECCA called on the Australian Government to seek leave to appear in the Thai court determining the fate of the detained Australian permanent resident and footballer Mr. Hakeem Al-Araibi.

Click [here](#) to read all FECCA media releases.

# STAKEHOLDER UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS



2019 will be the 20th anniversary of Harmony Day. This year the event will be renamed Harmony Week to recognise diversity and inclusion activities that take place during the entire week. Harmony Week will include 21 March, which is the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

It is a time to celebrate Australian multiculturalism, and the successful integration of migrants into our community. Harmony Week is about inclusiveness, respect and belonging for all Australians, regardless of cultural or linguistic background, united by a set of core Australian values.



The Australian Migrant Resource Centre (AMRC) in partnership with the Middle Eastern Communities Council of SA (MECCSA) will be celebrating Harmony Day and hosting the Nowruz Festival on 23 March 11-5pm at the Migration Museum, Adelaide. The Middle Eastern New Year Festival will also see the exhibition launch on the 'In Our Own Voices' Exhibition and the book launch of Dr Hamoudi Aldyni's 'Twenty Winters'.

Please RSVP your attendance to [admin@amrc.org.au](mailto:admin@amrc.org.au) by Monday 18 March 2019.



On the 2nd & 3rd of April 2019, the 4th Welcoming Cities Symposium will convene in Brisbane at the redeveloped Howard Smith Wharves. The event will bring together international, national and local practitioners, policy-makers, researchers, business innovators and civic leaders to share and discuss the challenges, benefits and opportunities of migration, settlement, cultural diversity and inclusion.

Visit <https://symposium.welcomingcities.org.au/> for more information.

# STAKEHOLDER UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES



The ACT Government in partnership with the ACT South Sudanese community invite you to join us at the Importance of Belonging public forum to coincide with 2019 Harmony Day celebrations. The forum is being held on Friday 22 March from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the ANU's Crawford School of Public Policy.

This is the first of a series of ACT Government hosted public forums that will be held throughout 2019,

exploring key issues and challenges influencing community cohesion across and within the Canberra community.

The Importance of Belonging public forum will feature two guest speakers: Deng Adut, Australian lawyer, NSW Australian of the Year (2017) and Aleem Ali, CEO, Welcoming Australia. Matters that will be explored include what is important to people arriving in our community and why, what challenges new communities face and how they can be supported, followed by a facilitated discussion.

An opportunity to network over light refreshments will follow the panel discussion. Places are limited so [register now](#).



Proudly hosted by LOGOS Australian Centre for Language and Culture, Flinders University, Ageing in a Foreign Land delivers a unique Conference

program that appeals to a broad range of audiences from policy, research, clinical, government and community sectors, focused on older CALD people and communities. Themed 'Ageing Well Through Communities, Capacity and Innovation', the 2019 Ageing in a Foreign Land Conference will build capacity through sharing knowledge and showcasing research innovation with broad range of application for services, co-designing practices and evidence for ageing policy led approaches. Early bird registration is now open, [click here!](#)

## INFORMATION FROM AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS



The Victorian Local Government Multicultural Issues Network (VLGMIN) is planning its 2019 forum to be held this year in regional Victoria. It will be hosted by the City of Bendigo and held at The Capital. The current working title is Community Harmony: The Importance of Responding to Racism and Discrimination. Click [here](#) for more details of the event.

# STAKEHOLDER UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES

## GENERAL INFORMATION



FECCA staff visited the Multicultural Communities Council of SA's (MCCSA) office as a beautiful mural was being painted.

As part of the Adelaide Fringe Sanaa Festival 2019, MCCSA's wall on Percy Court went through a colourful transformation 18th – 22nd of February, thanks to visiting African visual artist Mwamba Chikwemba from Zambia, Thufu Bebedo from Kenya in collaboration with Aboriginal artist Elizabeth Close and Adelaide local artist Julia Townsend.

Sanaa: A better world through creativity works with grassroots artists from different parts of the world to showcase their raw talents by creating a collaborative multi-art festival platform.

The new look on the MCCSA wall reflecting South Australia's diversity received positive reviews from staff, members, neighbours and multicultural community in South Australia. Sidiq Bah said it was a great experience for the MCCSA staff to meet the artists and see them at work.



### Champions for Change Fellowship 2019

Champions for change is a 6-month community organising, advocacy and campaigns fellowship. The aim is to equip Refugee Council members, supporters

and refugee community members with important advocacy and campaigning skills and set up structures that enable for strong communication, planning and implementation of effective movement-wide campaigns that span the country. Training dates will be in March 2019.

For more information and to send in an application, [click here](#).



In February, the **Migration Council of Australia** and the Friendly Nation Initiative in collaboration with **TENT Partnership for Refugees** launched Australian Guide to Hiring Refugees. The report looks at the barriers for refugees trying to break into the Australian employment market, the issue of skills recognition and benefits for Australian business in hiring refugees such as:

- The refugee experience develops resilience, courage and adaptability
- Refugee employers are motivated to work hard and stay longer
- Refugee employers can address skills shortage
- Refugee applicants are a source of talent
- Cultural knowledge brings a competitive advantage
- Including refugees in your workforce leads to better performance and higher staff morale.

You can read the full report [here](#).

# STAKEHOLDER UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES



Neighbour Day is Australia's annual celebration of community, encouraging people to connect with those who live in their neighbourhood. Whether through a cuppa, a picnic in the park, or a message of support; Neighbour Day is the perfect opportunity to say thanks for being a great neighbour and for being there to lend a hand. Neighbour Day is celebrated on the last Sunday in March every

year with the aim of fostering strong personal connections that last the whole year round. Every day can be neighbour day. The annual theme for Neighbour Day 2019 is **Loneliness: What neighbours can do to create connections.**

In 2019, Neighbour Day falls on Sunday 31 March. For more information, click [here](#).



Healthdirect Australia has developed free, translated information and materials to assist culturally and linguistically diverse communities to access the right health care in the right place and time. The health information - which includes videos, posters, brochures

and website content - is available in a range of languages, including English, Arabic, Bengali, Cantonese, Mandarin and Vietnamese.

Healthdirect Australia collaborated with FECCA in developing the materials to ensure the video animations, scripts, translations and voice-overs are culturally appropriate for each nationality, in a process that included community user testing.

The resources can be access [here](#).

## Mental Health Australia



Working with the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Council of Australia and National Ethnic Disability Alliance to deliver the project, Mental Health Australia is seeking your thoughts, feelings and ideas on the brand

values and a new name for the National Multicultural Mental Health Project.

We welcome your contributions to the discussion and development of a new name and brand that will capture the essence and identity of the National Multicultural Mental Health Project.

Click [here](#) to take the survey, which must be completed by Friday 15 March 2019.

# STAKEHOLDER UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES



The University of Melbourne is calling for participation in an online survey for a research project that aims to strengthen the support provided by settlement and multicultural services to migrant and refugee women who have experienced violence.

The project titled 'MuSeS' is being conducted by researchers at the University of Melbourne, the University of Tasmania, Flinders University and the Multicultural Centre for Women's Health and is funded by Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS).

While the research project is primarily conducted (because of funding limitations) in Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania, its online survey component is circulated nationally given the size and importance of the multicultural and ethnic communities and the organisations supporting them throughout Australia.

The survey is completely anonymous and should take 15 minutes to complete. Information about the survey in the link below. The survey link will remain active till March 31st 2019.

<https://sphinx.org.au/limesurvey/index.php/333112?lang=en>

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## FECCA MEMBERS UPDATES



The Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria is undertaking a 'Community Perspectives on the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and Disability'

Project to improve disability services for culturally diverse communities. People from migrant and refugee backgrounds and their families and other ethnic community members are invited to complete the survey to share their experiences with the NDIS and other disability supports. The feedback will help ECCV to raise existing problems with disability services and find solutions to help support clients better. The survey can be found [here](#).

# CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN THE MULTICULTURAL SECTOR

FECCA e-News aims to keep our readers updated on career opportunities in the multicultural sector. Please contact [janecke@fecca.org.au](mailto:janecke@fecca.org.au) if you wish to advertise an employment opportunity in our monthly newsletter.



Settlement Services International has a range of job opportunities, click [here](#) for more information.



The National Ethnic and Multicultural Broadcasters Council would like to help facilitate better access for ethnic community broadcasters to develop employment pathways to the ABC or mainstream media. The long-term goal is to improve media representation and diversity in Australian media. The NEMBC sees this as a long-term project and believe that ethnic community broadcasters need to be supported if they enter into a mainstream media position. To find out more visit [www.nembc.org.au](http://www.nembc.org.au).

## GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

As part of Stockland's ongoing commitment to shaping vibrant communities, the 2019 Stockland CARE Grants Program will once again award up to \$300,000 to organisations across the country to support local community-building initiatives.



Stockland's CARE Grants program is accepting entries from 9:00am (AEDT) on Monday, 25 February until 5:00pm (AEDT) on Friday, 22 March 2019. Community groups will be selected based on a range of criteria relating to Stockland's key community and environmental focus areas. The grant recipients will be announced from week commencing 27 May 2019.

[Apply here](#)

The Australian Government is inviting applications in an open process to apply to deliver activities under the Community Inclusion and Capacity Development (CICD) Program – Economic Participation of People with Disability Grant Round from June 2019 to 2020.



Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) is funded under the CICD Program. The objective of the CICD Program is to build innovative ways to increase the independence, social, community and economic participation of people with disability. Applications close 2pm, 13 March 2019.

[Apply here](#)



## Publish in FECCA's e-News

FECCA's monthly electronic newsletter is produced to keep our members, constituents and interested parties up-to-date with FECCA's activities, to discuss key issues and to disseminate information about news, updates and events in the multicultural sector. FECCA's e-News reaches a large national network of followers

representing the many migrant communities in Australia. You can have your organisation's news included in FECCA's e-News and reach a large and diverse community in Australia as well as politicians, organisations in the field and other stakeholders. Please contact Dr Janecke Wille on [janecke@fecca.org.au](mailto:janecke@fecca.org.au) for further details.



## Advertise in Australian Mosaic

FECCA publishes its national magazine, *Australian Mosaic*, three times a year. *Australian Mosaic* is a plain English magazine, which presents a wide range of contemporary issues associated with multiculturalism, social justice, community harmony, and cultural and faith pluralism in Australia. *Australian Mosaic* is intended to be of interest

to a wide readership and publishes a range of perspectives on selected themes. By advertising in the *Australian Mosaic* your organisation or business will reach a large and diverse migrant community in Australia as well as stakeholders and organisations in the sector. Contact Dr Janecke Wille on [janecke@fecca.org.au](mailto:janecke@fecca.org.au) to discuss opportunities and pricing.



## Stay informed about FECCA's news and activities

FECCA encourages you to sign up on our mailing list to stay informed about FECCA's work as well as other events, developments and activities in the sector.

Contact Dr Janecke Wille on [janecke@fecca.org.au](mailto:janecke@fecca.org.au) or find the [link](#) at our website to be added to FECCA's mailing list.