

Migration Principles

In Australia, everyone should be included equally and without barriers.

Yet for many seeking to make Australia home, the current migration settings act as a barrier to quickly and safely making a life in Australia where they can settle and contribute to their full potential. The Australian migration system must be overhauled and rebuilt to be fair, timely, transparent and accountable, simple, informed, and safe and supportive.

A migration system constructed on these principles will help to build a nation where the benefits of diverse

cultures, languages, life experiences, skills, and strengths are fully unlocked. This approach will not just provide long-term social and economic value for migrants and Australia, it will also help ensure a fair and inclusive society where everyone can belong and no one is left behind.

Valuing migrants beyond their short-term economic contributions, in both rhetoric and policy, will also shape Australia's international reputation to competitively attract new migrants.

Fair and affordable

A fair migration system prioritises permanency, consistency, and the ideological inclusion of all who arrive. People arriving to live in Australia, regardless of country of origin, entry visa, disability and wealth can access a simple migration program featuring consistent eligibility requirements, fees consistent with international standards and without fee for fast-track, and a transparent, inclusive, impartial and timely pathway to citizenship for those who wish to become Australian.

Timely

In a timely migration system, people know how long their application will take to be processed because maximum timeframes are established, processing is efficient, bridging visas are not overused when timing blows out and citizenship is achievable.

Transparent and accountable

A transparent and accountable migration system includes clear processing timeframes, accessible reporting on the numbers and status of lodged applications, and accessible review of decisions. A migration system's accountability is strengthened when robust feedback loops exist, and the program is evaluated by those who are affected by it.

Simple

A simple migration system features consistency across visa types, coordinated skill recognition, reduced visa types, greater skill match with available jobs and clear information and guidance on eligibility and process. Application processes and administration must be simple and easy to navigate.

Informed

An informed migration system is built-for-purpose through engagement with migrants and multicultural communities from the beginning, and has frequent and accessible opportunities for migrants to provide input and feedback on the migration experience.

Safe and supportive

A safe and supportive migration system features policies and programs which strengthen multiculturalism and support migrants to access essential information and services, connect with Australian society and reach their full potential. A safe and supportive system prevents the creation of vulnerability and exploitation and has accessible mechanisms in place to support those experiencing harm and distress.

The following organisations endorse migration reform principles of fair, timely, transparent, accountable, simple, informed, and safe and supportive.

Albury-Wodonga Ethnic Communities Council	Migrant Workers Centre
Australian Capital Territory Multicultural Council	Multicultural Communities Council Gold Coast
Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights	Multicultural Communities Council of Illawarra
Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council	Multicultural Communities Council of South Australia
Cultura (Geelong Ethnic Communities Council)	Multicultural Council of Griffith
Ethnic Communities Council of Logan	Multicultural Council of Tasmania
Ethnic Communities Council of NSW	Multicultural Council of the Northern Territory
Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland	Multicultural Council of Wagga Wagga
Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria	Multicultural Youth Advisory Network
Ethnic Communities Council of Western Australia	National Ethnic Disability Alliance
Ethnic Council of Shepparton and District	North East Multicultural Association
Gippsland Ethnic Communities Council	Refugee Council of Australia
Hunter Multicultural Communities	Settlement Council of Australia
inTouch - Multicultural Centre Against Family Violence	Settlement Services International
Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services	Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities council
Migrant Justice Institute	Young and District Multicultural Association

If your organisation would like to endorse these migration principles, please contact policy@fecca.org.au.