

# FECCAe-NEWS

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

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

Message from the Acting Chairperson, Eugenia Grammatikakis



*Members of the FECCA Secretariat celebrate Eid 2017*

Welcome to our June edition of FECCA's e-News. Our Chairperson, Joe Caputo, has gone on a well-earned break and I am delighted to take this opportunity to give the welcome to this month's e-News.

Last week the Federal Parliamentarians returned to their constituencies for the winter break. During this sitting break, a number of Parliamentary Inquiries will be taking place that have significant implications for Australia's culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

Perhaps the most important of these is the Senate Inquiry into the new Australian citizenship legislation. This new legislation will extend the waiting period before permanent residents are eligible for citizenship, increase the English language requirement to qualify for Australian citizenship and widen Ministerial discretion to deny citizenship in individual immigration cases. These proposed changes run counter to Australia's long-standing immigration policy, which has worked to create the current successful and harmonious Australian multicultural community.

*Continues on page 2*

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

For migrants to Australia, the granting of Australian citizenship is symbolic of acceptance into the Australian community. It is cherished by all in Australia's migrant communities. Instead, this Bill will create a permanent underclass of Australian residents denied the rights and opportunities of being welcomed and included as an Australian citizen.

This legislation sends a terrible message to generations of migrants—like my own parents—who came to Australia with no English, but have subsequently enriched this nation through their cultural, economic, familial and social contribution.

It says that they should not have been accepted because they did not speak academic level English when they became a citizen. It says that hard work and commitment to your family and nation is not enough to be Australian.



Another critical inquiry relates to the legislation that will introduce changes to eligibility for the Aged Pension. These changes, announced in the Federal Budget, will require claimants to have up to 15 years of continuous Australian residence to be eligible to receive these key supports. Nearly 40 per cent of people receiving the Age Pension were not born in Australia. These provisions will disproportionately impact Australians of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds.

FECCA believes that migrant Australians should not be punished in their older age or because they require support for living with a disability

It is very important that all of our communities make their voices heard by making submissions to these inquiries to highlight the concerns of Australia's many ethnic and migrant communities. Details of the citizenship inquiry can be found [here](#) and the inquiry looking at changes to pensions [here](#).

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

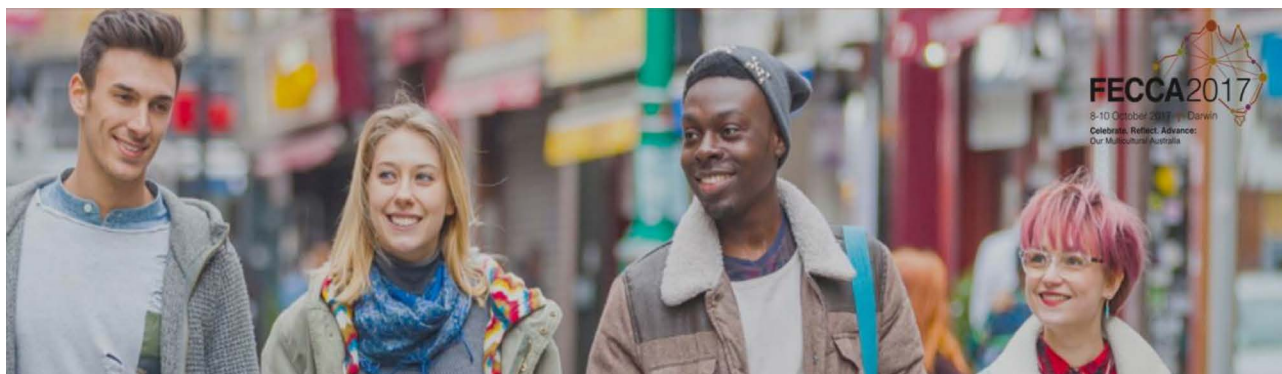
**Eugenia Grammatikakis**  
Acting Chairperson

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

# FECCA NEWS

## FECCA Conference 2017

### Celebrate. Reflect. Advance: Our Multicultural Australia



FECCA and our co-hosts the Multicultural Council of the Northern Territory (MCNT), are proud to announce some great speakers for the FECCA 2017 National Biennial Conference which will be held in Darwin, NT, 8–10 October 2017. Confirmed speakers:

- Senator the Hon Zed Seselja, Assistant Minister for Social Services and Multicultural Affairs, Liberal Party of Australia
- The Hon Tony Burke MP, Shadow Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Australia, Australian Labor Party
- Senator Richard Di Natale, Leader, The Australian Greens
- Dr Tim Soutphommasane, the Race Discrimination Commissioner

- Kate Carnell AO, Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman
- Jenevieve Chang, actor, write and movement director

We encourage you to submit an abstract—including for the conference Youth Day on 8 Oct—to present a paper, workshop or panel on a topic that you think is important to multicultural Australia. Abstract submissions and registrations are now open on the [conference website](#)

**For Registration:** [Click Here](#)

**Abstract Submission Deadline:** 26th July 2017  
(For further Information [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](mailto:alia@fecca.org.au).

# FECCA NEWS

## FECCA stands strong against the proposed citizenship legislation

The Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) is campaigning to oppose the Government's proposed changes to citizenship in Australia through the *Australian Citizenship Legislation Amendment (Strengthening the Requirements for Australian Citizenship and Other Measures) Bill 2017*. These changes will dramatically change the rules determining qualification for Australian citizenship. The Bill includes:

- Extension of the waiting period for permanent residents from one year to "at least four years" before eligibility for citizenship
- Increased English language requirement to qualify for Australian citizenship
- Widening of Ministerial discretion to deny citizenship in individual immigration cases.

Instead, this Bill will create a permanent underclass of Australian residents denied the rights and opportunities of being welcomed and included as an Australian citizen.

**FECCA calls on individuals and organisations to voice their concerns about these changes** by making a submission to current Senate Inquiry into the legislation. Submissions can be a lengthy report or a short letter. Details of how to make a submission can be found [here](#) and for further guidance please [contact FECCA](#) directly.

FECCA's submission to the initial consultation paper on the proposed citizenship changes can be found [here](#).

The Refugee Council of Australia has agreed to share submissions to the original consultation from any organisation who wishes them to be made public [here](#).

## FECCA receives a Donate life Community Awareness Grant to encourage organ and tissue donation

Australians from any cultural background may one day be in need of an organ or tissue transplant. It is important that all Australians are appropriately supported to understand, discuss and make decisions on organ and tissue donation. The grant to FECCA will benefit all Australians by helping save more lives by

encouraging the registration of a donation decision on the Australian Organ Donor Register.

The Community Awareness Grants are administered by the Organ and Tissue Authority as part of its Community Awareness and Education program. The register can be accessed at [www.donatelife.gov.au](http://www.donatelife.gov.au).

## FECCA calls on the Government to review costs for proposed temporary visa

The Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) believes that high entry charges for parents coming to Australia under the new temporary parent visa are inequitable and fundamentally overlook the importance of immigration to Australia.

The proposed new temporary parent visa will allow overseas parents of Australians to stay in the country for

up to ten years. The opportunity to bring their parents to live or visit for extended periods should be available to all Australians—not just the wealthy. FECCA made a submission to the Department of Immigration and Border Protection on this issue. In its [submission](#) FECCA welcomed additional options for family reunion while urging the Government not to remove or reduce existing more permanent parent visa options.

# FECCA NEWS

## FECCA appears before the Inquiry into the sustainability of the Australian film and television industry

Mr Joe Caputo, FECCA's Chairperson and Dr Emma Campbell, Director of FECCA were invited to give evidence to the Inquiry into the Sustainability of the Australian Film and Television Industry this month.

In his opening statement, Mr Caputo emphasised that for the Australian film and television industry, diversity and sustainability are one in the same.

Mr Caputo told the committee that "as the population continues to diversify so must the stories Australians tell and the ways in which we tell them. As the formats

delivering on-screen content continue to expand and multiply, Australian producers must work harder to capture the attention of an audience spoilt for choice. Diversity is the key to this."

In particular, he highlighted the leadership of SBS in this regard and encouraged other film and television program makers to see the economic opportunity in diversity as well as the power of on-screen diversity to reach across the boundaries of race, faith, language and ethnicity and to unite us through storytelling that reflects today's Australia.

## FECCA attends the Inaugural African Diaspora Women's Summit in Melbourne

FECCA representatives attended the inaugural African Diaspora Women's Summit in Melbourne which brought together service providers, professionals, NGOs and others from the African diaspora and others working closely with women from the diaspora in Australia.

Dr Janecke Wille, FECCA's Policy and Project Officer spoke about her research on South Sudanese settlement and FECCA's Director, Dr Emma Campbell talked to the audience about how women from the African diaspora can use advocacy networks to ensure that their concerns are represented to state and federal government.

## FECCA makes submission to the Select Committee on the Future of Public Interest Journalism

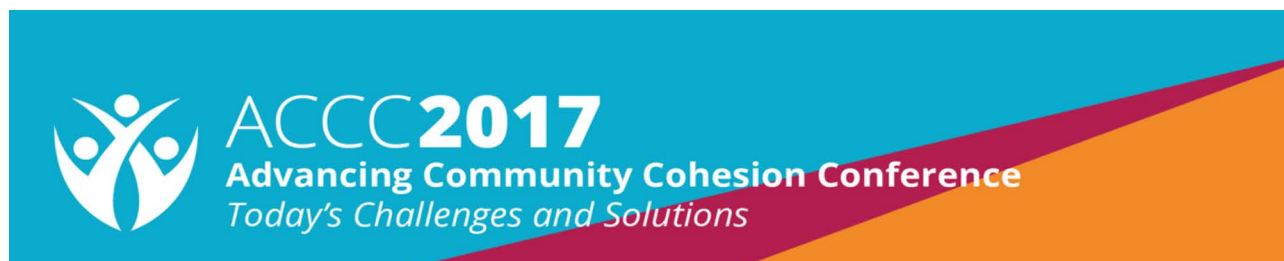
Access to dependable information is fundamental to empowering individual Australians to make informed decisions in all aspects of their lives. This is particularly important to migrant communities who rely heavily on news media to better understand and navigate political, economic and cultural life in Australia. This means that diverse and representative Australian journalism, including news presented in languages other than English, is critical to ensure that migrants have the information required to fully access and participate in Australian society. Further, the inclusion of stories that reflect all members of Australia's diverse population is also an important part of building community cohesion and understanding.

FECCA's submission to the Select Committee on the Future of Public Interest Journalism made the following recommendations:

- Australia's public service broadcasters and ethnic community radio stations are appropriately resourced and supported
- Measures be taken to ensure diversity across all aspects of news media ownership, production and delivery
- As a minimum, protections under 18C in the Racial Discrimination Act remain, to protect Australia's diverse communities from hate speech on the basis of race and ethnicity
- Australia's news media be challenged to ensure that language used in news reporting does not gratuitously inflame social tensions between Australia's racial, religious, geographic or cultural communities
- Culturally and linguistically diverse communities are able to access complaints mechanisms including the Australian Human Rights Commission in cases of illegitimate conduct by an individual journalist or news media organisation.

# STAKEHOLDER UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES

## Advancing Community Cohesion Conference 2017



20–22 NOVEMBER 2017  
Sir Ian & Nancy Turbott Auditorium, Parramatta South Campus



Conference Convenor Dr Sev Ozdowski AM FACID invites you to this national forum in Parramatta NSW, from 20–22 November 2017, to explore Australian answers to global and local challenges to community cohesion. The 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. [Details here.](#)

### KEY DATES

**Abstract Submission deadline:** Tuesday, 1 August 2017.

**Conference dates:** 20–22 November, 2017

**For Registration** [Click Here](#)

## Research on MESSI: Managing Ethical Studies on Sensitive Issues

This survey explores what children, young people and adults think about when deciding to take part in social research, or provide consent for children to take part. It is part of an Australian Research Council Discovery Project.

While we have been very grateful to have a high response rate from parents of children aged 7–14, we are still hoping to increase the response rates for young people aged 12–17; and also professionals responsible for children aged 7–14, such as community service workers, youth workers, managers in government departments and non-government organisations, and education professionals.

The survey takes 10 minutes to complete, and participants can go in the draw for a \$200 voucher.

[Click Here](#) to participate or complete the survey





# STAKEHOLDER UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES

## The Information Law Unit at the Attorney General's Department are seeking feedback on issues CALD users may be facing when accessing government information

The team in the Information Law Unit at the Attorney General's Department are very keen to hear about CALD user experiences accessing information through government services for the purposes of for example:

- applying for Australian citizenship
- passport and visa verification ie date of arrival
- security clearance information
- welfare information eg Centrelink records
- tax return information.

They would like the following questions considered in relation to CALD communities:

1. Have you made a request to government for information? How did you go about it? Did you make the request under specific legislation eg FOI Act / Archives Act / Privacy Act?
2. What information were you looking for? Did you get what you expected? Was the format in which it was received easy to use? What did you use it for?

3. We are seeking to better understand your experience—would you use the same Act or process again for a similar request? Is there any reason you would stop using the Act? Did you tell others about your experience? If so, was it verbal, social media, phone, via email? Can you give me an example? Positive or negative is ok.
4. Has access to the information you were seeking ever been denied? Have you been given reasons why? What was the experience like? (eg well explained or frustrating).
5. If there is one thing you could change in the system/process, what would it be?

If you would like to contribute, please provide your feedback by **4 July 2017** to [MULTICULTURAL.NETWORK.SUPPORT@humanservices.gov.au](mailto:SUPPORT@humanservices.gov.au) and we will consolidate the feedback and forward to the Attorney General's Department.

## Cultural Shift from settlement to belonging

Settling in Australia presents migrant and refugee families with many new opportunities. However, the process of settlement and adjustment to a new country can be challenging for many families.

How do we support families to get a good start in a new country? What does it take to create optimal settlement conditions and opportunities for families? How do we foster a sense of belonging that is so vital to wellbeing?

Join experts, prominent Australians, practitioners, community groups and members as we discuss these important questions, explore new ways of working together, and share ideas on effective and innovative models and approaches.

Cultural Shift will highlight the vital role of services from different sectors in supporting families. Hear about inspiring and new developments in areas such as



**culturalshift**  
from settlement to belonging  
August 10 - 11, 2017  
Novotel, Sydney Olympic Park



community led initiatives, migrant and refugee services, child and family support services, health, employment, disability, education, housing, and private industry.

For Registration [Click Here](#)

# STAKEHOLDER UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES

## It's Not a RACE

Race, racism, identity, culture, difference — let's talk it out.

It's Not A Race, with host [Beverley Wang](#), is the ABC podcast Australia needs right now. The first episode of It's Not A Race became available on June 1. A new episode will be in your podcast stream every Thursday. Here's a preview.

[Click Here](#)



## Our Watch Awards



The purpose of the Our Watch Awards is to recognise exemplary reporting to end violence against women—journalism that contributes to a deeper understanding of violence, its causes and prevention. The media is uniquely placed to give the issue a platform, encourage a more informed understanding of violence against women, and bring about real change.

The Our Watch Awards have been developed as part of the Our Watch National Media Engagement Project (NME), an initiative under the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010–2022. Entries are open June 5 to July 7, 2017.

For further information on the Our Watch awards please visit <http://www.walkleys.com/awards/our-watch-awards/>

## Asia Australian Leadership Summit

**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:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/2nd-annual-asian-australian-leadership-summit-2017-tickets-34782555560>



# STAKEHOLDER UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES

## Anti-Poverty Week 2017

The success of Anti-Poverty Week depends on individual people and organisations taking action to organise an activity with friends, colleagues or other groups. Any activity, large or small, that helps people to express their interest and concern about any aspect of local, national or global poverty is very welcome. We can support your activity by including it in the [Calendar of Activities](#) on this website, providing copies of Anti-Poverty Week flyers and other promotional activity to help promote your activity, and giving contact details of other people and organisations planning activities in your area. You don't need to get approval from us to organise an activity. But it would be helpful if you could tell us about your activity (even if you don't want it posted on our Calendar).

Remember to Share [Your Activity](#) as well!




## Mission Australia's Annual Youth Survey

FECCA encourages people between the ages of 15 and 19 to participate in Mission Australia's annual youth survey. We also encourage our members to share this with their networks.

Please include the code for Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia: 93301 when participating in this survey. The survey is now live online at [www.missionaustralia.com.au/youthsurvey](http://www.missionaustralia.com.au/youthsurvey)



	<p>The closing date for responses is Monday <b>31 July 2017</b>. A full report of the findings will be released later this year and will be available for download at <a href="http://missionaustralia.com.au/youthsurvey">missionaustralia.com.au/youthsurvey</a></p>	<p>Contact for more information: <a href="mailto:youthsurvey@missionaustralia.com.au">youthsurvey@missionaustralia.com.au</a></p>	<p><b>Promotional toolkit</b></p> <p>To help you promote the survey on your website, social media and noticeboards and in newsletters, we have created a toolkit which you can access from: <a href="http://missionaustralia.com.au/youthsurveytoolkit">missionaustralia.com.au/youthsurveytoolkit</a></p>
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## Australia is a fast-changing, ever-expanding, culturally diverse nation.

This is what the results of the latest national Census reveals. It has been less than 10 months since the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) took the pulse of

the nation to find out who we are, how we live, what we do, and where we're headed. Learn about the results [here](#).