

FECCAe-NEWS

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

Federal Election 2016: Will the major parties commit to policies and actions that support Australia's multicultural communities?

READ THEIR RESPONSES HERE



In the lead up to the 2016 Federal Election, the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) calls for all parties to adopt a policy platform that responds to Australia's cultural and linguistic diversity.

FECCA's election platform – *Governing for All Australians: A Policy Platform to Respond to Australia's Cultural and Linguistic Diversity* – recognises that targeted policies are necessary to address the specific needs of Australia's culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) population, foster social inclusion and to continue attracting migrants.

FECCA provided its election asks to the Coalition, Australian Labor Party and Australian Greens, seeking their commitment to specific policy actions on a number of key issues.

The responses received by FECCA from each of the parties are reproduced in full here: [Federal Election 2016: Multicultural policy commitments from the major parties.](#)

Don't forget to visit FECCA's dedicated [Federal Election 2016 webpage](#), where you can access all your multicultural election content.

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From the FECCA Chairperson



Welcome to our June 2016 update.

FECCA recently wrote to the major parties, identifying priorities across a number of policy areas that will benefit culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities.

In our letter, we pinpointed 10 election asks to the Coalition, Australian Labor Party and Australian Greens, seeking their commitment to specific policy actions on a number of key issues. Their responses have been published on the [FECCA website](#) for your consideration.

FECCA are very pleased to announce the 2017 FECCA National Biennial Conference location will be held in Darwin. The FECCA Conference provides a platform to exchange ideas on multiculturalism, while presenting an opportunity to drive change on the national agenda. We look forward to seeing you there!

Registration for the National Multicultural Women's Conference 2016 – *Influencing Change: Vision and Impact*, is open. The conference will be held at the Parkroyal Parramatta, Sydney, from 3-4 November 2016. To register click [here](#).

Don't forget that you can be a part of the program by submitting an abstract. Abstracts must be submitted online by Friday 5 August 2016. Submit your abstract [here](#). We also encourage everyone to have a look at our sponsorship and exhibition packages on offer. Don't miss out on being a part of this important national event. To find out more click [here](#).

Finally, FECCA have recently released its consultation report, 'Digital Access and Equity for Multicultural Communities'. The Governments' investment in the digital agenda, aimed at driving innovation and bridging the gap in services, is of great interest and concern to FECCA. The move to digital government service delivery has a profound effect on Australia's CALD communities. To download a copy of this consultation report click [here](#).

Joseph Caputo OAM JP

FECCA NEWS

FECCA 2017 National Biennial Conference Announced

We are proud to announce the FECCA 2017 Biennial Conference – the preeminent forum to discuss and debate issues related to Australia's multiculturalism – will be held in partnership with the Multicultural Council of the Northern Territory (MCNT), FECCA's Northern Territory peak member.

FECCA Chairperson Joe Caputo said, "The FECCA Conference is an important national event that brings together the community sector to help shape future directions for Australia's multiculturalism. It provides a platform that encourages inclusive dialogue on the challenges and opportunities that our ever changing cultural and linguistic landscape presents, as well as the far-reaching benefits of embracing diversity through agile policy and practice."

MCNT President Kevin Kadirgamar said, "The MCNT is proud to host the 2017 national conference. The conference will coincide with the MCNT's 40th anniversary, making it a significant milestone in our history. Darwin stands ready to host an insightful conference, exploring the role of multiculturalism in modern day Australia and the opportunities and challenges for the future."

The Conference will be held in late 2017. We look forward to seeing you in Darwin!

Submission for Increasing Choice in Home Care – Stage 1

The Department of Health released the consultation paper on Increasing Choice in Home Care in the Ageing and Aged care sector on 11th of May 2016. The suggested changes will take effect from 21 February 2017 and provide more equitable opportunities for older people who have similar support needs. These changes will be designed in a manner that places consumer at the centre and increase portability of supports whilst ensuring that there's more transparency with regards to fees charged by the service providers.

FECCA is pleased to note the positive changes to ease the regulations in relation to Home Care service provision. However, we raised concerns in relation to tight timelines to decide on obtaining the services from a provider. The new framework provides 84 days (56 days and an additional 28 days where necessary) to decide on a service provider, which may not be adequate for some consumers and adds further pressure to make decisions about an already complex process. Consumer empowerment, culturally appropriate and sensitive service delivery, language supports were some other concerns that were highlighted in FECCA's submission.

The submission can be found [here](#).

Submission for National Disability Advocacy Program

The National Disability Advocacy Program (NDAP) discussion paper was released on 26th April 2016 with a view of reviewing the current service structure. Prior to this, the Department of Social Services reviewed the National Disability Advocacy Framework. The NDAP will fund agencies specialise in providing advocacy support to a number of specific cohorts including people from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds and the service structure will be based on a human rights model. Further the discussion paper acknowledges social isolation, communication difficulties, and lack of culturally appropriate or accessible supports as key barriers for people from CALD backgrounds in accessing advocacy supports.

The submission highlighted concerns in regards to intersectionality of services under the NDAP and other support services such as the Information, Linkages and Capacity Building Framework, Aged Care Advocacy Services and the like. Recommendations included advocacy service providers who specialise in providing services to people with disability, their family members and carers from migrant and refugee backgrounds receive additional funding to cover the cost of language services, staff training and outreach work, increasing access to justice and clarifying the intersectionality between the NDAP and other support mechanisms.

The submission can be found [here](#).

Digital Access and Equity for Multicultural Communities

FECCA recently released its consultation report, 'Digital Access and Equity for Multicultural Communities'.

The Australian Government is investing in the digital transformation agenda to drive innovation and make it easier for individuals and businesses to access government services.

The move to digital government service delivery is of interest and concern to FECCA's constituency – Australia's culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities. The push to move government service delivery online and the speed of reforms require adequate consideration of, and tailored responses to, accessibility issues regarding the online information provision and service delivery, with a view to overcoming barriers to access and achieving equity of outcomes.

FECCA thanks the culturally and linguistically diverse community groups and service providers who participated in consultations in Darwin, Adelaide and the Gold Coast, and those who provided feedback via the online survey.

To download a copy of this consultation report [click here](#).

National Multicultural Women's Conference 2016



The inaugural national Multicultural Women's Conference 2016 – Influencing Change: Vision and Impact, will be held at the Parkroyal Parramatta, Sydney, from 3-4 November 2016.

This national event is an outcome of an innovative partnership between Settlement Services International (SSI) and the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) that will provide a holistic perspective towards shaping a shared vision and driving change for multicultural women.

Join practitioners, decision makers, community members and thought leaders, and participate in what will be a lively and productive national dialogue.



Violet Roumeliotis
CEO
Settlement Services
International



Hina Durrani
Women's Chair
Federation of Ethnic
Communities' Councils
of Australia



You can contribute to the program

Call for abstracts now open! Visit the website for more information or to submit your abstract: www.nmwc2016.com

Key Themes

- Health, Wellbeing and Safety
- Impact through Culturally Competent Practice and Service Provision
- Economic security, Employment, Education and Enterprise
- Living Well, Ageing Well
- Future Leaders
- Creativity and Capacity: Arts and Culture
- Race, Identity and Belonging
- Embracing Diversity in Disability
- Intersectionality of Gender, Cultural Identity, Sexuality

Key Dates

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| • Call for Abstracts | Now open |
| • Registration opens | 16 May 2016 |
| • Abstract submission deadline | 5 August 2016 |
| • Early bird/Presenter registration closes | 31 August 2016 |


**National
Multicultural Women's
Conference 2016**
Influencing Change: Vision and Impact
3-4 November | Parkroyal Parramatta
www.nmwc2016.com

STAKEHOLDER UPDATES



Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department

National Security Campaign – fact sheet

Why has the Australian Government launched new advertising for the National Security Campaign?

The national security campaign has been running in various forms since December 2002.

The new campaign, 'If it doesn't add up, speak up,' targets all Australians to remind us that everyone can help keep Australia safe by calling the national security hotline on 1800 123 400.

Information reported by the community to the National Security Hotline is valuable, and has contributed to existing terrorist investigations – and sparked new ones.

Even if you think it's probably nothing, the smallest piece of information can be valuable.

What sort of suspicious behaviour and activity should be reported to the national security hotline?

The nature of terrorism is changing, with callers providing information on the use of websites or social media platforms promoting violent extremism ideology, suspicious travel planning, and reports from people concerned that someone they know is becoming radicalised towards violent extremism.

As people go about their daily lives, they are best placed to notice something suspicious and out of the ordinary.

What can I expect to see from the new campaign?

The campaign features television, radio, print, outdoor and digital advertising.

The campaign will also include print, digital and radio advertisements translated into 11 languages, including Arabic, Bahasa, Bengali, Dari, Farsi, Hindi, Sinhalese, Somali, Tamil, Turkish and Urdu.

Copies of the campaign materials are available at: www.nationalsecurity.gov.au

STAKEHOLDER UPDATES



Australian Government
Australian Law Reform Commission

Elder Abuse and Law Reform

Australia has a rapidly ageing population and, with it, potentially increasing rates of elder abuse. How do Australian laws respond to elder abuse, and how can they better protect older Australians? This is a question currently being looked at by the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC).

Elder abuse can be physical, sexual, psychological, or financial. A 2016 report by the Australian Institute of Family Studies suggests that the most common form of abuse is financial and is perpetrated by family members, for example where adult children take advantage of their elderly parents to access their house or savings for their own use and benefit. Older women are the most common victims of financial abuse and are also the most susceptible to family violence.

Older people from non-English speaking backgrounds may be more vulnerable to elder abuse as result of not being fluent in English or not being able to access information or services. For recent migrants, this can be exacerbated by the loss of informal support networks. There may also be cultural factors that affect the way elder abuse is perceived and responded to in different communities.

In looking at how Commonwealth laws can better protect older Australians, the ALRC is looking at laws in the areas of financial institutions, superannuation, social security, aged care and health - consulting around Australia with organisations and individuals who work in these areas.

The ALRC is releasing the Elder Abuse Issues Paper on 15 June 2016. The Issues Paper will look in some detail at the different areas the Inquiry focuses on, and will ask specific questions where more information is sought from the public.

The ALRC is particularly keen to hear perspectives on elder abuse from a wide range of cultural groups. If you have experienced or witnessed elder abuse, you can send your story by email to elder_abuse@alrc.gov.au or phone on (02) 8238 6300.

The Issues Paper is free to view or download at www.alrc.gov.au/publications/elder-abuse.

Information about the ALRC Elder Abuse Inquiry is available in 20 community languages at www.alrc.gov.au/elder-abuse-information-other-languages.



Census
census.abs.gov.au

OUR MOMENT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Get ready for the 2016 Census...

Everyone in Australia, except foreign diplomats and their families, must complete the Census on August 9 this year, even if you are not an Australian citizen. The Census provides important information used to allocate funding and plan services in your community. The ABS is legally bound to protect all respondents' privacy and will not share your personal information with any other government department or agency.

Remember: even visiting relatives, travellers and other temporary visa holders must complete the Census.



For help with translations, call the [Translation and Interpreter Services \(TIS\)](http://www.abs.gov.au/translation) on 131 450.

More information can be found at census.abs.gov.au.

STAKEHOLDER UPDATES

Are you a regular user of TIS National's immediate phone interpreting service?



ATIS Voice automated immediate phone interpreting

ATIS Voice is our automated voice-prompted immediate phone interpreting service, allowing you to access interpreters in high demand languages without having to wait in a queue to be assisted by an operator.

TIS National has produced an [instructional video](#) explaining the simple five step process to accessing an immediate phone interpreter through ATIS Voice.

ATIS Voice uses voice recognition technology to identify the language requested and automatically connect you with an interpreter in that language.

The service is currently available in the following 18 languages:

- Arabic *
- Bosnian
- Cantonese
- Croatian
- Dari
- Farsi
- Greek
- Italian
- Korean
- Khmer
- Mandarin
- Russian
- Serbian
- Spanish
- Somali

- Turkish
- Vietnamese

*Sudanese Arabic is not available through ATIS Voice.

For languages not serviced through ATIS Voice, call the TIS National Contact Centre on 131 450.

View more [information about ATIS Voice](#).

MULTICULTURAL NEWS & EVENTS

'Wogarigines': Indigenous 'Mobs' with Southern European 'Migrant' Heritage

A new research project is currently exploring the life stories and family histories of "Wogarigines", a term often used by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with Southern European (Greek, Italian, Maltese, Portuguese and Spanish) migrant heritages. The researcher, Dr Maria Pallotta-Chiarolli from the School of Health and Social Development, Deakin University, will explore how 'Wogarigines' were affected by colonial, racist and multicultural national and state policies, and colonial, racist and multicultural socio-cultural perspectives and practices. It will also document and honour 'Wogarigines' strategies of resistance, re-definition and re-clamation.

Maria has been interested in exploring these issues given her own Italian migrant background. "In my published family autoethnography, "Tapestry", I tell the story of my migrant mother being taught to hate and fear Indigenous people in the late 1950s, often through openly racist and extremely offensive expressions. I then explore how my mother gradually learned to undo such racism in herself, and her fervent hope that her children and grandchildren would resist such a legacy".

Maria has been "greatly inspired by the powerful and poignant published research of Peta Stephenson, "The Outsiders Within: Telling Australia's Indigenous-Asian Story" and "Islam Dreaming: Islam in Indigenous Australia", and the autobiography by renowned educator, Chris Sarra (2014), "Good Morning, Mr Sarra: My Life Working for a Stronger, Smarter Future for Our Children". With an Indigenous activist mother and an Italian migrant father, he calls his book "a yarn, in the storytelling tradition" of his people, Aboriginal and Italian.

Maria is interested in stories of love and intermarriage between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and Southern European migrants as well as the disturbing realities of oppression and misogyny from migrant men toward Indigenous women, and the "Stolen Generation" children who were removed from their Indigenous families and adopted into Southern European families. "The myths of migration, in particular of migrant men 'building the nation' in rural and remote Australia, need to be critically examined and uncovered in all their brutality and beauty," says Maria. The latter includes the untold stories of migrant men who were ostracised from their migrant communities and from the wider Australian society, indeed were classified as criminals and immoral, when falling in love with and raising families with Indigenous women. "And there is a glaring absence of any stories or memories of migrant women in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men, and raising families with them".

Maria sees this research as a fundamental step in the ongoing national project of Recognition, Respect and Reconciliation which must critically examine how multiculturalism has benefitted from colonisation and continued racism. She is also clear about what she is NOT doing: "what I am definitely not doing is interrogating the 'authenticity' or 'legitimacy' of Indigeneity as needing to be based on skin colour and 'blood quantum' of Aboriginal ancestry. Australia has a long history of the offensive classification of 'full bloods' and 'hybrids', or 'real' and 'inauthentic' Aborigines as was undertaken in the media by Andrew Bolt. This colonial classification system is unacceptable. The acknowledgment of Southern European heritage in this research does not delete, denigrate or deduct from the right to identify as Indigenous".

Maria is asking for you to contact her for a private, confidential and anonymous interview, either in person or on the telephone. She will come to you when and wherever convenient to talk about being a "Wogarigine", or your multicultural perspectives and experiences with Indigenous peoples, and also hearing from Indigenous and non-Indigenous service providers, community members and organisations who have worked with 'Wogarigines'.

Contact details: Maria on 0414 804 529 or e-mail mariapc@deakin.edu.au.

The Our Watch Awards

Entries are now open for the 2nd Annual Our Watch Awards. The Awards, administered by the Walkley Foundation, reward exemplary reporting to end violence against women.

"Time and time again, national and international research – including this report – tells us that the public is heavily influenced by the way violence against women is portrayed in the media," Our Watch Chief Executive Officer Mary Barry said.

"The Our Watch Awards acknowledge this level of influence. They are a chance to celebrate those journalists and outlets doing an exemplary job in reporting on violence against women and their children in Australia, and highlight best practice to others in the field."

"In recent years, as violence against women has dominated the headlines as never before, many in the media industry are contributing to a new era in the reporting of the issue," Ms Barry said.

Our Watch is encouraging media around the country to enter the Our Watch Awards and members of the community to prompt journalists to enter for outstanding work they've noticed.

Entries in seven categories in the [Our Watch Awards](#) are open until 7 July and can be submitted [here](#).

MULTICULTURAL NEWS & EVENTS

Identifying Employment Barriers for Tertiary-educated Australian Women with a Muslim background

Tertiary educated Muslim women in Australia have more difficulty finding jobs than their non-Muslim counterparts. The University of Melbourne and Women's Health West are working together to try to understand why.

We would like to hear from Muslim who have an Australian tertiary qualification, or an overseas qualification that is recognised in Australia and have experienced difficulties finding work in their chosen field. You might be looking for work or be working outside your chosen field, or area of qualification. We will be holding one-hour long focus groups and will reimburse participants for travel costs.

We would also like to talk to men who are living in families where there is a Muslim woman in this situation. We would also like to hear from businesses who employ Muslims.

What it will involve?

It will involve taking part in a discussion group that will last about an hour. There will be separate discussion groups for women and men. Each group will have 6-8 people and will be led by a researcher. The discussions are confidential and we won't collect any identifying information about you.

The purpose of the study is to help Women's Health West and the community sector to better understand the barriers faced by tertiary-educated Muslim women seeking employment and things that have helped overcome these barriers.

If you are interested in taking part or would like more information, please contact:

Mrs Ashraf Hosseini, 0424 971 522, hosseini.a@unimelb.edu.au

or

Dr Richard Williams, 0419 997 226, williams.richard@unimelb.edu.au

or

Ms Susan Timmins, 0407 061 702, susan.timmins@unimelb.edu.au

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