

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 Chairperson, Mary Patetsos

I am pleased to welcome you to the sixth issue of FECCA e-News for 2018.

Last week we celebrated the National Refugee Week. FECCA staff participated in several events celebrating the contributions refugees make to Australia using the hashtag #withrefugees. FECCA is proud to show our support to refugees arriving in Australia and be part of a welcoming Australian society.

Migrants and refugees have been the focus of policy and media debate recently, in particular with regards to English language proficiency. The Government has suggested possible changes to the citizenship process and increased English language skills form part of these changes. FECCA has, in recent media release and submissions, stated that we oppose the proposed language tests. We maintain that a test, written or verbal, will impact disproportionately on vulnerable people, in particular refugees, women and the older generation.

FECCA does however, stress the importance of mastering the English language to ensure success in the settlement period and beyond. FECCA has always recognised that English proficiency is one of many factors which drive integration and social cohesion. A shared language facilitates social cohesion and is in the interest of our nation as well as of the individual migrant. Access to employment, education, government services are improved with higher English language proficiency. FECCA's own research



and consultations have demonstrated these same results. While FECCA maintains that translators and interpreters should be easily available for all migrants and refugees with limited English skills, FECCA also acknowledges that English language acquisition is an important aspect of migrants' and refugees' ability to successfully settle in Australia.

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

We know that there are many excellent programs out in the communities—both government funded and private—that focus on teaching English to new migrants such as Australian Migrant English Program (AMEP) and Skills for Education and Employment (SEE) together with several New Arrivals programs and language schools across all states and territories. Yet, while acknowledging the importance of English proficiency FECCA understands that for many of our communities and people, accessing language training programs can sometimes be difficult. It has recently been noted that not all migrants take up the offer of free English language classes to improve their English. Here at FECCA we would like to know why. I encourage you to write to FECCA and tell us about your story; challenges and successes in attending English classes and how you think the offering of language programs can be improved in Australia.

FECCA understands that the migration pattern to Australia has changed over recent years with increasing numbers of people coming through Australia's Humanitarian Program. These are people who often arrive from countries at war or after years in refugee camps. People arriving through the Humanitarian Program have often had their education disrupted and need language programs developed to meet their needs.

Further, for people arriving as a secondary visa applicant, as a spouse (most often women), FECCA understands that there are specific needs that must be considered when planning accessible English programs—access to child care, ability to travel and addressing their caring and domestic responsibilities.

Again I encourage you to write to FECCA and tell us about your experience with accessing English programs and how you think that accessing programs could be changed to address the many different needs in the community.

This month I was interviewed on the Senior Rights Service. I talked about how Isolation and financial exploitation through lack of understanding their rights and others' responsibilities towards them are probably the greatest vulnerabilities facing older people from CALD backgrounds today. Providing accessible, appropriate information in languages that people can understand is the key to older people from CALD backgrounds being able to live a full life and minimise the risk of abuse. You can listen to the full interview [here](#).

Finally, I wish to congratulate Ms Gail Ker OAM, a long-time friend of FECCA, on receiving the 2018 Queensland Greats award. Ms Ker is the CEO of Access Community Services, one of Australia's leading organisations in the provision of settlement, employment, training, youth support, housing and social enterprise services for migrants, refugees and Australian born clients. Ms Ker has also recently launched her 99 Steps to end Domestic Violence program.

I wish you a happy reading and encourage your continuous support and hard work ensuring Australia remains a harmonious and successful multicultural society.

Mary Patetsos
Chairperson

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

FECCA NEWS

During the month of April, FECCA staff, board and committee members attended a variety of events and stakeholder meetings including:

FECCA Director of Policy, Dr Alia Imtoul attended the McKinsey and Company Young Leaders Forum, courtesy of a scholarship granted by our partners at ACOSS, where, among other topics, discussions focused on creating inclusive workplaces.

McKinsey&Company
McKinsey Academy



FECCA Staff attended a special Refugee Week breakfast celebrating refugee contributions to Canberra with speeches by Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Rachel Stephen-Smith and the CEO of Settlement Council of Australia (SCOA), Mr Nick Tebbey. #withrefugees

FECCA Director of Policy attended the Refugee Week function at the Parliament House in Canberra where there were speeches by the Prime Minister the Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP and the Minister for Home Affairs the Hon Peter Dutton MP, as well as representatives from refugees across Australia.



FECCA CEO, Dr Emma Campbell, presented findings and advised on access and equity, complaints and feedback mechanisms, based on FECCA Access and Equity Report 2017, to the Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman.



FECCA NEWS

FECCA CEO, Dr Emma Campbell, presented to 200 people at the Commonwealth Complaints handling forum. Dr Campbell participated on a panel about the diversity of complainants at the Commonwealth Complaint Handling Forum along with Sheree McGuffin from the National Disability Insurance Agency and James McDonald from Medibank.

[Click here](#) to read FECCA's report on Access and Equity to Feedback and Complaints Mechanisms for Multicultural Communities.



FECCA Director—Ageing and Disability, attended the UNHCR World Refugee Day with keynote speaker Ms Nyadol Nyuon, a Melbourne-based lawyer, focusing on determination and gratitude and of the importance of support. She paid much homage to

her mother who endured living in a refugee camp for many years with seven children.



FECCA staff together with FECCA Chair, Ms Mary Patetsos, attended an ANU Symposium Exploring the Challenges of Super-Diverse Populations in Australia and the Asia-Pacific Region where Ms Patetsos presented on FECCA's work on multiculturalism and proposed citizenship changes.



FECCA Director of Policy, Dr Alia Imtoul, attended a Protection and Prevention: Australia's Inaugural Forced Marriage Conference where the objective was to engage and build bridges between various sectors in order to develop responses to forced marriage in Australia which are holistic and person centred.



FECCA NEWS

FECCA Director of Policy—Ageing and Disability, Cristina Giusti, was delighted to be appointed as one of the judges for the recent Centre for Cultural Diversity in Ageing Conference awards recently held at the Melbourne Arts Centre on June 14. The awards demonstrated to me the commitment from the CALD aged care sector of the importance of inclusivity and respect towards service provision of older people from CALD backgrounds.'

Amongst the winners were the Multicultural Communities Council of Illawarra (MCCI) for the Excellence in Organisational Leadership award and the Umbrella Multicultural Community Care (WA) for the excellence in service delivery awards. The Dr Olga Kanitsaki award for Individual Excellence was awarded to the CEO of Umbrella Multicultural Community Care from Western Australia Anna Maria Harrison.

FECCA Director Cristina Giusti noted how these awards are 'truly national awards and I congratulate the winners of the awards. The awards encourage and promote quality leadership, showcase innovative ideas and acknowledge the contributions of those organisations and individuals that are leading the charge in bettering service outcomes for older people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds'.



L to R; Cristina Giusti (FECCA), Chris Lacey (CEO MCCI), Ken Habak (Chair MCCI), Cecilia Milani (PICAC Manager NSW&ACT)



L to R; Cristina Giusti (FECCA), Anna Maria Harrison (CEO Umbrella Multicultural Community Services)



L to R; Umbrella Multicultural Community Services team; Nilda Eisen (President), Anna Maria Harrison (CEO), Henry Podgorska (Senior Community Engagement Coordinator)

On 15 June, following the awards, was the Setting Standards Conference. Cristina Giusti presented a paper on *Focusing on solutions and strategies that improve aged care outcomes for older people from CALD backgrounds*. Cristina highlighted the work that her team has been engaged in with the development of the CALD action plan of the Aged Care Diversity Framework.



FECCA NEWS

In June FECCA's Hon Secretary Mohammad Al-Khafaji spoke on SBS radio in relation to English skills for new migrants. Relating back to his own migrant journey from Syria to Australia, Mohammad spoke about the experiences of feeling welcome and how it is natural for new migrants to come together, feel at home with others from same background and how people often move to area where settlement services are situated. You can listen to the full segment [here](#).



Rachel Wong, from FECCA's Advisory Committee for Women, attended the Australian Human Rights Commission & MYAN National Anti-Racism Youth Leadership Initiative in Melbourne on behalf of FECCA. The initiative was the first national program of its kind, and presented a unique experience to build anti-racism advocacy and leadership skills while learning from youth leaders from around the country.



Rachel Wong discussing the importance of cultural diversity in corporate leadership with the Minister for Cultural Affairs Robin Scott MP

FECCA NEWS

In June FECCA made the following submissions:

FECCA Submission to the Inquiry into the Competitive Neutrality of the National Broadcasters where FECCA addressed a number of questions relating to SBS and its competitive neutrality

In June FECCA put out a number of press releases:

- Proposed English test for migrants
 - New Citizenship fee change
 - Call for Senate to reject punitive Social Services Bill
 - FECCA supports SBS with submission to inquiry
 - FECCA congratulates Multicultural Council members
 - FECCA applauds football club for multicultural program
- [Click here](#) to read all FECCA press releases.
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Book Release

FECCA celebrates Adjunct Associate Professor Dr James Jupp and his new contribution to the national discussion of multiculturalism in Australia. Dr Jupp is a long-time friend of FECCA and has recently made a big contribution to FECCA's in-house library with a large part of his collection of books he has gathered throughout his long academic career. James Jupp is a visiting scholar in the School of Demography, Australian National University. He is the author of several books and articles, the editor of three encyclopaedias and the co-editor of six books. In his new

book, ***An Immigrant Nation Seeks Cohesion***, Dr Jupp strives to get a little bit closer to the truth of two hundred years of creating a liveable society in what was once a remote and unknown part of the world. FECCA encourages you all to seek out this 'deeply informed and incisive book' where Dr Jupp 'masterfully dissects Australia's historical immigration, multicultural and political experience and situates it in today's unstable world' (John Higley, Emeritus Professor, Australia and New Zealand Studies Centre, University of Texas at Austin, USA). The book can be ordered [here](#).



STAKEHOLDER UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES



The Harmony Alliance is conducting a survey to better understand the issues of importance for women from migrant and refugee background. The survey has been

translated into five languages (Arabic, Dari, Mandarin, Somali and Vietnamese). The survey will run for six weeks (until 11 July) and can be accessed [here](#).

Save the date for the NEMBC Annual gathering of ethnic community broadcasters—23 to 25 November at the Novotel in Perth, WA. The conference will be hosted by 6EBA, Perth's full time ethnic community radio station. Registration will open soon. [Click here](#) for more information.



Diaspora Action Australia's Diaspora Learning Network is announcing the second, two-day international conference, *Diasporas In Action: Working Together for Peace, Development and Humanitarian Response*, to be held at the University of Melbourne on 26–27 September 2018. After the success of the first Diasporas in Action conference in 2016, this new exciting symposium will bring together diaspora representatives, NGOs, academics, government, donors and others, to explore how diasporas contribute to peace, reconciliation, development and humanitarian efforts in multiple contexts such as their countries of origin, sites of

displacement and third countries. They are calling for an Expression of interest from anyone interested in presenting a paper or hosting a workshop. Expression of Interest must be submitted by 13 July 2018. For more information, [click here](#) and [click here](#) to read the expression of interest.



The Federation of Equatoria Community Association in Australia invites you its National Conference on 5–6 October this year in Melbourne. The theme of the conference is 'Setting the Future for South Sudanese Equatorian Community in Australia' and will focus on challenges and on building a future defined by unity. [Click here](#) for more information.



STAKEHOLDER UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES

While refugees struggle to deal with the so called 'canvas ceiling' obstructing their pathway to employment, many enthusiastic employers would support their efforts but don't know how to go about it, according to the University of Sydney Business School. Dr Szkudlarek describes the 'canvas ceiling' as 'the obstacles experienced by refugees when it comes to workplace integration'. 'Research shows that refugee employees are extremely motivated to perform because they see employment as a path to rebuild their life in the new home country', said Dr Szkudlarek. 'Initial findings from

countries such as Sweden shows that those employers who have hired refugees are eager to do so again'. Dr Szkudlarek urges employers to reach out to a number of organisations specialising in bridging the divide between refugees and businesses such as [Settlement Services International \(SSI\)](#), [AMES Australia](#) and [Refugee Talent](#).



SBS Radio has recently announced that five new language services—**Karen, Tibetan, Hakha Chin, Mongolian** and **Kirundi**—are available on the SBS Radio app and SBS website now. The new services will provide weekly content to meet the needs of new migrant communities, including settlement guide information and community updates. Drawing on expert advice and tips from service providers, each week the SBS Radio Settlement Guide focuses on a facet of daily Australian life that new migrants and emerging communities might find unfamiliar—from how to vote or lodge a tax return to information about water and fire safety, healthcare and housing. [Click here](#) for more information.



Listen to the latest Australian news, updates on community events and music, in your language with the SBS radio App.

- Personalise the app to your favourite language and programs
- Never miss out on your favourite podcasts with our notifications
- Download your podcasts for on the go listening
- Listen live to all your favourite shows
- Live stream music

- Explore the latest content in our podcast collection page
- Share content across Facebook

SBS Radio broadcasts in 68 different languages. [Click here](#) to learn more.



STAKEHOLDER UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES



Get ready for the new Child Care Subsidy. Get online now.

From 2 July 2018, the child care fee assistance your family receives will change. Your information **does not automatically rollover** to the new system and you may not receive any subsidy if your assessment is not completed.

- **Login now** to complete your online form now through [myGov](#).
- **Learn more** about the [new subsidy](#) and [how to transition](#).
- **Estimate** what your new Child Care Subsidy might be, go to the [Payment and Services Finder](#).

From 2 July 2018, one new Child Care Subsidy will replace the two current child care payments. This transition cannot happen automatically. To transition, you will need to complete an online Child Care Subsidy assessment using your Centrelink online account through [myGov](#). You should do this as soon as possible. You will be asked to provide some new information and confirm your current details, including:

1. [Combined family income](#)
2. [Activity level of parents](#)
3. [Type of child care service](#)

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

- ✓ Sign into your Centrelink online account through [myGov](#).
- ✓ Select **Complete your Child Care Subsidy** assessment task.
- ✓ Work through the steps to **provide new information** and **confirm** your current details.

If families do not complete their assessment before 2 July 2018, they may not receive any child care fee assistance.

[Click here](#) to find brochures with information on the changes and how to transition in Arabic, Dari, Korean, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, and Vietnamese.

STAKEHOLDER UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The Department of Home Affairs have updated their information on Temporary Protection visa (TPV) and Safe Haven Enterprise visa (SHEV).

The Department seeks to:

- encourage TPV holders who wish to remain in Australia to apply for a subsequent TPV or SHEV **before their current TPV expires**, to avoid the serious consequences associated with becoming an unlawful non-citizen in Australia.
- remind TPV and SHEV holders that it is a condition of their visa to update the Department with their current address and contact information. They can do this via ImmiAccount at www.homeaffairs.gov.au/ImmiAccount or by completing Form 929 – Change of address and/or passport details, which is available at www.homeaffairs.gov.au/allforms.

- update any communication materials or websites to ensure that TPV holders are aware that the process for lodging a subsequent TPV or SHEV application is different to the process for their initial TPV application, has a different form and is a simplified process.
- reassure SHEV holders they do not need to lodge a subsequent application until their SHEV is closer to its expiry date.

Information is available on the SHEV pathways here.

www.homeaffairs.gov.au/trav/visa-1/790-

If you need support in this process—legal or migration advice—you can find important links on the Refugee Council of Australia's (RCOA) [website](#)

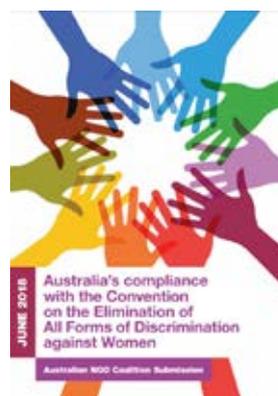


YMCA Victoria is a not-for-profit and charity committed to improving the health and happiness of Victorians. They have played a role in helping out communities for over 160 years including ensuring dads and father figures are celebrated loudly and proudly! On Sunday September 2, thousands of families will participate in the third YMCA **Father's Day Fun Run**. It's Melbourne's newest and biggest Father's Day tradition where families can walk or run the 5 or 10 km course around the Tan and afterwards enjoy games and activities like bubble

soccer, music, a petting zoo and more at the event village. They are currently seeking voluntary ambassadors for the YMCA Father's Day Fun Run. We are asking ambassador to help share their support for the event and the cause. It is a low time commitment. You can read about our ambassadors from 2017 [here](#).



FECCA recently endorsed the Australian NGO Coalition Shadow Report for the Convention with the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) Review which was lodged with the UN Committee on ED AW. The NGO Coalition will bring the report to the UN Committee on 2 July and attend the Australian government appearance on 3 July. You can follow them on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for live updates during the review and find the report [here](#).



CALD AGEING NEWS

FECCA presents at the 6th Diversity Forum in Cairns, May 31

FECCA's Director of Policy—Ageing and Disability, Cristina Giusti, presented to representatives from the aged care community in Queensland in Cairns on May 31 at the 6th Diversity Forum: *Forever Young, Better Health and Wellbeing for culturally and linguistically diverse older Australians*. Her presentation covered the Aged Care Diversity Framework and development of the CALD action plan. The forum was organised by Diversicare, a division of the Ethnic Communities' Council of Queensland. Diversicare is the auspicing body of the *Partners in Culturally Appropriate Care* program in Queensland. Cristina Giusti and Chair Mary Patetsos represent FECCA on the Aged Care Sector Committee's



Presenters and organisers at the Cairns Diversity Forum May 31. L to R Carers Qld-Jess Young, Mamre Assn- Helen Baird, LASA- Chris Edith, LGBTI Health Alliance- Sam Edmonds, Diversicare General Manager- Vivienne McDonald, Centre for Cultural Diversity in Ageing Manager – Ljubica Petrov, FECCA Director of Policy—Ageing and Disability, Cristina Giusti, Diversicare Multicultural Advisor - Marcela Fischer.

FECCA encourages all our readers to consider becoming a Dementia Friend and be part of a dementia friendly community. A dementia-friendly community is a place where people living with dementia are supported to live a high quality of life with meaning, purpose and value. To learn more on how to join, [click here](#).



CALD AGEING NEWS

The Office of the eSafety Commissioner is offering free webinar presentations to help older Australians stay safe online. The presentations are delivered from 10 to 20 July and will cover areas such as safer online shopping and banking and can you spot a scam. The Office of the eSafety Commissioner is responsible for promoting online safety to all Australians, helping them have safer, more positive experiences online. With these eSafety presentations we hope to empower older Australians with the knowledge and confidence to get online and

safely enjoy all the benefits the internet has to offer. [Click here](#) to book an eSafety with Be Connected webinar, or email beconnected@esafety.gov.au if you have any questions.



2018-19 ACAR – how to determine regional, rural or remote locations

The Aged Care Approvals Round is a competitive application process that enables prospective and existing approved providers of aged care to apply for a range of new Australian Government funded aged care places and financial assistance in the form of a capital grant. The 2018-19 ACAR opens on 2 July 2018 and will prioritise allocation of residential aged care places to suitable applications in regional, rural and remote locations. For more information, [click here](#).



New approved provider application forms from 1 July

New application forms and guidelines for organisations seeking approval to provide aged care will be available from 1 July 2018. If your organisation is applying for

approval to provide residential care, home care or flexible care, you must use the relevant new application form. You can find the forms [here](#).

The Centre for Cultural Diversity in Ageing provides expertise in culturally inclusive policy and practices for the aged care services sector. The Centre has recently launched a new website with a range of resources for aged care service providers, consumers and carers. The [Aged Care Services with Bilingual Staff Directory](#) allows consumers to search for aged care services employing bilingual staff. Aged care providers are encouraged to [register](#) for this directory. [The Bilingual](#)

[Agency Staff Directory](#) lists agencies with bilingual staff who can be engaged by aged care service providers to help match languages spoken by their consumers. For more information, [click 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 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.



STARTTS is seeking a Data Entry/ Administrative Officer. [Click here](#) for more information.



Diversicare is seeking a Program Officer—Multicultural Interactive Program Solutions. [Click here](#) for more information. For other positions with Diversicare, [click here](#).



The Brotherhood of St Laurence is seeking a Family Violence Prevention Officer to work with their Melbourne Multicultural Communities Team (MCT). [Click here](#) for more information.



inTouch, the Multicultural Centre Against Family Violence, is seeking a [Capacity Building and Project Coordinator](#) and a [Family Violence Intake Worker](#) in Melbourne.



Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights is seeking an Office Manager for their Melbourne office. [Click here](#) for more information.



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 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 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 or find the [link](#) at our website to be added to FECCA's mailing list.