

FECCAe-NEWS

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

WELCOME TO THE NOVEMBER EDITION OF FECCA E-NEWS

Message from FECCA Chairperson, Ms Mary Patetsos



Welcome to the eleventh issue of FECCA e-News for 2018. This will be the last e-news for 2018 where we present news and events FECCA staff and board members have attended as well as stakeholder news and events for the last months of 2018.

In early November, I spoke on SBS radio regarding FECCA's position on the children on Nauru. Refugee children and their families deserve clarity as their status including security and certainty. FECCA called on Prime Minister Scott Morrison to establish measures which will enable these children to settle in Australia—to grow up, succeed and contribute to Australia as citizens. A clear pathway to citizenship would confirm the rights

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they will enjoy in this country and the responsibilities they will have as citizens. We must remember that Australia's cultural diversity and economic success have been driven by its immigration program—including refugee intakes—with a clear, humane and fair pathway to citizenship.

Also, in November, FECCA responded to the Government's plan to reduce the 190,000 cap on new migrants under Australia's permanent migration program by almost 16 per cent, or 30,000 people. FECCA reiterated that strong immigration levels contribute to Australia's economic, social and cultural strength. FECCA stated that the Government show national leadership with a comprehensive plan to improve the nation's infrastructure so that it can service a growing, prosperous nation. FECCA pointed to the real issue of the so-called 'immigration debate' being inadequate and poorly planned infrastructure, not migrant numbers.

On November 21, I spoke on ABC's Matter of Fact. Together with Phil Davies from Deloitte Australia and Jack Archer from Regional Australia Institute where we discussed migration and regional settlement and whether we have the infrastructure to support a big Australia. The program was hosted by Jeremy Fernandez. You can watch the full program [here](#).

Finally, in November we welcomed Mohammad Al-Khafaji as our Acting CEO. We said farewell to Dr Emma Campbell. We are very grateful for all the work Dr Campbell has done for FECCA and wish her the best of luck in her new role.

We will be back in 2019 to continue our work. Together with the FECCA Board and Secretariat, I wish you an enjoyable reading of this November e-news. We also wish you all happy holidays and we look forward to working together in the next year. 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)**



FECCA NEWS

Events attended by FECCA staff:

FECCA staff attended a roundtable organised by Economic Security for Women discussing how women's organisations can engage with government, corporates and civil society for the development of policies to improve women's economic security. An eS4W's White Paper was presented: **Defining the concept of economic security for all women.**



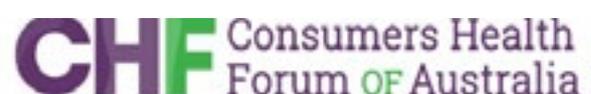
FECCA staff attended a meeting with the Australian Coalition to End Loneliness—a coalition of likeminded organisations aiming to raise awareness of, and address, loneliness and physical social isolation through evidence-based interventions and advocacy.



In November, FECCA staff attended the Canberra policy consultation on National Workplace Sexual Harassment Inquiry.

FECCA staff attended a celebratory event—*Three Decades of Consumers Shaping Health*—with speeches from Minister for Health, the Hon Greg Hunt MP, Shadow Minister for Health the Hon Catherine King MP, and Senator Richard Di Natale, leader of Australian Greens. A White Paper was launched on the day, **Shifting Gears, Consumers Transforming Health**, looking at eight key roles for consumers and the continued need for a more

active role for consumers in health care, what is often referred to as consumer 'choices' and consumer 'voices' aiming to improve service delivery, consumer experience and health outcomes.



FECCA NEWS

In November, FECCA Acting CEO, Mohammad Al-Khafaji, and Policy and Project Officer, Daniel Coase, attended the Minister for Aged Care and Senior Australians, the Hon Ken Wyatt AM, MP's Aged Care Quality Standards stakeholder event. FECCA congratulated Minister Ken Wyatt on the release of the Aged Care Quality Standards and welcomed the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commissioner Janet Anderson. FECCA is proud to have contributed to the development of the standards.

FECCA Acting CEO, Mohammad Al-Khafaji, Minister Ken Wyatt and FECCA Policy and Project Officer Daniel Coase



FECCA NEWS

In November FECCA made the following submissions:

National Men's Health Strategy for 2020 – 2030

In this submission FECCA pointed to the fact that a major barrier for CALD men and boys in accessing health care is a lack of Australian health literacy with only 33 percent of people born overseas having adequate or better health literacy, compared to 43 percent of the Australian-born population. This figure drops to 27 percent for those who arrived in Australia during the past five years and to 26 percent for people whose first language is not English. Low health literacy can result in less access to the services that they need; less understanding of issues related to their health; social isolation, impacting physical and mental health; risk of mismanaging medication; and inadequate understanding of health issues. Improving health literacy amongst CALD men and boys should be explicitly featured in this Strategy.

National Women's Health Strategy for 2020 – 2030

In this submission FECCA noted that the strategy must give appropriate recognition of the barriers and inequities faced by CALD Australians through targeted actions. A major barrier facing CALD women and girls addressing health care is lack of Australian health literacy. FECCA noted that the existing information in 'Priority populations' does not address the diversity and different knowledge levels within the CALD community in regard to health literacy and engagement with health services. The Strategy does not acknowledge that CALD women and girls are a diverse group and that varied levels of engagement with preventative health services, mental health services and written sources of health information, exist between different communities depending upon English language proficiency, length of stay in Australia and other factors.

Migration Amendment (Strengthening the Character Test) Bill 2018

In this submission, FECCA opposed the Migration Amendments and expressed a concern that the current review process for refusals and cancellations is characterised by great expense to the individual. FECCA pointed out the lack of accessible legal representation and the strict timeframe for review which relies on the individual understanding the complexities of the Australian Appeals Tribunal (AAT). FECCA also noted that given the devastating and long-lasting impact on the individual, their family and community, visa cancellation measures should be limited only to the most serious crimes as judged by the courts.

In November FECCA put out a number of press releases:

FECCA calls for fair-go for migrants

FECCA welcomes changes to social security bill

Victorian election result a victory for decency

FECCA says immigration decision shows lack of leadership

FECCA joins with other organisations in welcoming ALP announcement on remittances

FECCA supports call for greater recognition of migrant skills

FECCA comments on sacking of Ross Cameron by Sky News

FECCA calls for citizenship path for Nauru children

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

STAKEHOLDER UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES



My Health Record Opt Out Period extended until 31 January!

The opt out period for My Health Record has been extended until 31 January.

Legislation were passed on 26 November to strengthen privacy protections in My Health Records Act 2012.

The new legislation means that you can opt in or opt out of My Health Record at any time in your life. Records will be created for every Australian who wants one after 31 January 2019. After then, you can delete your record permanently at any time.

The changes to My Health Record will:

- allow Australians to permanently delete their records, and any backups, at any time
- explicitly prohibit access to My Health Records by insurers and employers
- provide greater privacy for teenagers 14 years and over
- strengthen existing protections for people at risk of family and domestic violence
- clarify that only the Agency, the Department of Health and the Chief Executive of Medicare (and no other government agency) can access the My Health Record system

- explicitly require law enforcement and other agencies to produce a court order to access information in My Health Records
- make clear that the system cannot be privatised or used for commercial purposes.

These changes are backed by harsher penalties and fines for inappropriate or unauthorised use of My Health Record. You can read more about the changes and how this will impact you [here](#).

To opt out is a simple process that you can do online, via the My Health Record website. For assistance to opt out, you can call the Help line 1800 723 471. For interpreting assistance in another language, first call TIS on 131 450 and ask to be connected to the Digital Health Agency.

Consumers who wish to opt out or would like to know more about My Health Record and require interpreting services are advised to contact TIS on 131 450 and ask to be connected to the Digital Health Agency. The cost of the call will be borne by the Agency. To learn more about the benefits of the system visit: www.myhealthrecord.gov.au. Information translated into 17 languages can be accessed [here](#).

STAKEHOLDER UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES

UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS



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. Early-bird registration is available until 3 December 2018. Click [here](#) to learn more and to register.

INFORMATION FROM AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS



Centrelink transition to myGov

All Centrelink customers will soon need to sign in to their Centrelink online account using myGov. If people don't have a myGov account, they can create one. They can go to my.gov.au and select Create an account. They will need their own email address to create an account. If people already have a myGov account, they will need to link their Centrelink account to myGov. All they need to do is sign in to myGov, select Link my first service or Link another service and follow the steps.

Since 3 November 2018, Centrelink customers who have a mobile number or email address recorded with Centrelink have to sign in to their Centrelink account

using myGov. Their online letters will go to their myGov Inbox. If they don't have a myGov account, their letters will go to their postal address recorded with Centrelink. If customers need help to create a myGov account or to link their Centrelink account to myGov, they can:

- use our myGov step by step online guides available in English and a range of translated languages [here](#)
- go to the Resources and help section on our website and use our [myGov resources for community groups](#) information
- call 131 202 to speak with us in their language, 8 am – 5 pm Monday to Friday
- call the myGov helpdesk on **132 307** and select **Option 1** to speak to us in English. It is open Monday to Friday 7 am – 10 pm, and Saturday to Sunday 10 am – 5 pm
- visit a service centre or a myGov shopfront.

STAKEHOLDER UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES



As part of the Shaping Tomorrow's Taxpayers Today initiative, the Australian Taxation Office has published a scam flyer to the ATO Product Ordering System in seven languages:

- Chinese (Traditional)
- Punjabi
- Hindu
- Vietnamese
- Arabic
- Spanish
- Korean

This flyer warns people to be alert to scammers impersonating the ATO, other government agencies or businesses demanding payment of fake debts/fines. The flyer can be accessed [here](#).



The BoardLinks database is used by the Australian Government to source women for appointment to Australian Government boards. The Government is on track to achieve its gender diversity target for women to hold 50 per cent of Australian Government board

positions. The statistics as at 30 June 2018 show that women hold 45.8 per cent of positions, an increase of 3.1 per cent since June 2017, and the highest result since public reporting commenced in 2010-11. The Government is now expanding the BoardLinks program to allow any woman who is interested in being considered for a Government board appointment to register on the database. This will greatly expand and diversify the current pool of candidates. You are encouraged to nominate others or self-nominate [here](#).

STAKEHOLDER UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES



The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) is proud to have a user centred design program. This program engages with Australians with the aim to ensure products and services created meet the needs of the target users. They would

love to have greater multicultural representation in the feedback received. They are inviting all members to register to be a part of the BOMideas website. This will allow the Bureau to contact you for any up-coming testing they are doing (on digital and non-digital products and services). If you are interested, please register via this link by 02 January 2019:

<https://e.bom.gov.au/survey.php?sid=23060&name=bomideas-fecca-member-survey>

Also, BOM recently launched a new BETA weather service for the general public. If you have time to take a look and give feedback (via the green face that displays on the bottom right hand side of the site) BOM would love to hear from you:

<https://beta.weather.bom.gov.au/>

GENERAL INFORMATION



UNSW Social Policy Research Centre presents a new policy brief which examines the impacts of tightening family visa pathways for migrant grandparents and transnational family life. The brief, **The Temporary Sponsored Parent Visa, Migrant Grandparents and Transnational Family Life**, maps Australia's changing approach to migrant grandparents including the proposed temporary sponsored parent visa.

It explores how Australia's migration regime shapes grandparent childcare available in migrant communities, consequences for migrant mothers' workforce participation, as well as gendered risks of vulnerability and precarity for grandparents. This policy brief was produced as part of the ARC Discovery Project **Markets, Migration and the Work of Care in Australia** and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Partnership Grant **Gender, Migration and the Work of Care**.

STAKEHOLDER UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES



The 2018 Human Rights Awards will be celebrated at Sydney's Westin Hotel on Friday 14 December from 12-3pm. This will be another wonderful event celebrating Australia's unsung heroes in the protection and preservation of human rights. You can view all of the 2018 Human Rights Awards finalists [here](#). Buy tickets <https://hrawards.humanrights.gov.au/tickets>. Ticket sales end on 10 December. For more information about the Awards, visit the [Awards website](#) or contact hrawards@humanrights.gov.au.



Australian
Human Rights
Commission

**HUMAN
RIGHTS
AWARDS 2018**



The Australian Council of Trade Unions have launched a multilingual website which has been promoted on SBS radio and on social media. They are looking for workers in migrant communities to tell their stories for ACTU to better understand key issues at work for these communities and to get them more involved in the campaign to Change the Rules. Check out the Your Story website [here](#).

STAKEHOLDER UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES



The Harmony Alliance, in collaboration with SBS, has released a report looking at issues of importance for women of migrant and refugee backgrounds over 18 years old—in particular with regards to their experiences with health and employment

systems in Australia. The **Migrant and Refugee Women's Voices Survey Report** found, among other things, that respondents who had come to Australia to look for/take up a job or to study were more than 10 per cent less likely to have received information about health systems and that 66 per cent of respondents who did not access interpreters regularly for health services said they were told that their English was too good to need an interpreter.



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.

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.



Umbrella Multicultural Community Care is seeking a Senior Supervisor Social Support Programs for their Perth office. Click [here](#) to learn more.



The Brotherhood of St Laurence is seeking a settlement worker for their Melbourne office. Click [here](#) to learn more.



Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland is seeking a Vietnamese Community Health Worker & Program Assistant. Click [here](#) to learn more.



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.