

21 May 2015

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trading,
255, London Circuit,
Civic, ACT

Via email :s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au

Submission for the draft CERD report

FECCA recommends the following amendments/explanations in relation to the draft CERD report.

Concluding Observation 14

General comment

Elaborate further on addressing systemic issues and barriers experienced by migrants and refugees with regards to government service provision, including through implementation of the Multicultural Access and Equity Policy, especially in relation to government agencies' obligations, and provide some reflection on the adequacy of the current policy and any envisaged enhancement of its implementation.

Specific comments

Paragraph 56 –

Further clarity on the statement on '*committing around \$ 545 million for multicultural communities for four years*' would be more useful. Especially whether this amount was granted for specific programs, community organisations, etc.

It would be useful to explain further as to the other engagement mechanisms/ measures adopted by the government to engage with multicultural communities.

Paragraph 57 –

Clarify whether the Australia's Social Inclusion Agenda is still in operation, and if not, elaborate further as to why the benchmarks provided under '*How Australia is Fairing*' report are still being used.

**Federation of Ethnic
Communities' Councils
of Australia**

FECCA House
Unit 1, 4 Phipps Close
Deakin ACT 2600

PO Box 344
Curtin ACT 2605

p 02 6282 5755
f 02 6282 5734
e admin@fecca.org.au
w www.fecca.org.au

21 May 2015

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trading,
255, London Circuit,
Civic, ACT

Via email : [s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\) @dfat.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)

Submission for the draft ICESCR report

FECCA recommends the following amendments/explanations in relation to the draft ICESCR report.

Concluding observation 16 (Persons with disabilities)

Paragraph 63 –

According to the draft report, one of the reasons for meeting the health requirement is to contain public expenditure on health, social security benefits, allowances and pensions. It is suggested that the report elaborate further that there is a 10 year waiting period for Permanent Residents and temporary Migrants to receive Disability Support Pension (DSP).

Concluding observation 18 (Unemployment rates)

Paragraph 78 –

From 1st July 2015, Job Services Australia will be replaced with '[Jobactive](#)'. Given that jobactive may be substantially different to the specialist service provision for individuals with a migrant or refugee background, it would be important for the report to clarify how these new changes would affect the aforementioned communities.

Concluding observation 22 (Domestic violence)

General Comment

The information under this section lacks specific statistics and details. Women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds are more vulnerable to domestic violence and violence against women. It is suggested that the report discuss relevant data in more detail with special reference to lack of protections for women with temporary visas.

Concluding observation 24 (Poverty)

General comment

Specific data on poverty is lacking in this section as poverty is a crucial economic, social and cultural issue that is affecting culturally and linguistically diverse communities. Relevant statistics are available on [Australian Bureau of Statistics website](#).

Concluding Observations 35 and 36 (Additional ratifications)

Paragraph 244 –

FECCA has advocated for the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The paragraph requires more clarity as to whether the government would take measures to ratify the optional protocol as recommended.