

27 April 2012

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Inquiry into the Migration Legislation Amendment (Student Visas) Bill 2012

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the Federal Inquiry into the Migration Legislation Amendment (Student Visas) Bill ('the Bill') 2012.

FECCA is the national peak body representing Australians from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds. FECCA provides advocacy, develops policy and promotes issues on behalf of its constituency to government and the broader community. FECCA supports multiculturalism, community harmony, social justice and the rejection of all forms of discrimination and racism so as to build a productive and culturally rich Australian society. FECCA's policies are designed around the concepts of empowerment and inclusion, and are formulated with the common good of all Australians in mind.

FECCA has long advocated for the rights of international students, including their rights to live safely and productively in Australia, and we recognise the huge social, economic and cultural contribution international students make.

**Federation of Ethnic
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of Australia**

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In April 2011 FECCA submitted, in depth, to the Strategic Review of the Student Visa Program, and made detailed recommendations in relation to, amongst other things, orientation programs for international students, the need for culturally-appropriate education around rights and responsibilities, preventing the exploitation of international students and the working rights of international students. To this effect we encourage further consideration of the recommendations made within the scope of our submission (at http://www.immi.gov.au/students/student-submissions/_pdf/133-fecca.pdf)

We take this opportunity to welcome the changes as outlined in the Bill, as they seek to give legislative implementation to Recommendation 24 of the Knight Review and abolish the automatic cancellation of student visas as a result of unsatisfactory course attendance or course progress, and rather focus on a system whereby information conveyed by student course variations is used to analyse and assess non-compliance.

On behalf of CALD communities we commend this change, and believe it will work towards meeting the objectives of treating international students fairly and consistently, as well as ensuring a more efficient means of visa administration.

Kind regards,

Pino Migliorino

FECCA Chair