



Committee Secretary
Senate Education and Employment Committees
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Via: eec.sen@aph.gov.au

Re: Social Security Legislation Amendment (Streamlined Participation Requirements and Other Measures) Bill 2021 [Provisions]

The Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) is the national peak body representing Australia's culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities and their organisations. FECCA develops policy and promotes issues on behalf of its constituency to Government and the broader community. FECCA strives to ensure that the needs and aspirations of Australians from cultural and linguistically diverse backgrounds are given proper recognition in public policy.

The proposed amendments will have major implications for people on activity-tested payments which includes some people from CALD backgrounds and attempts to 'streamline' services and legislation can result in people being adversely affected. However, the timeframe of this inquiry has not allowed FECCA, as a member-based organisation, to consult with members and properly examine the proposal to ensure no unintended consequences will occur based on these changes.

FECCA recommends:

1. The committee extend the inquiry submission deadline by at least four weeks, to allow people affected, community organisations, and social security experts to make a submission.
2. The relevant Departments undertake public information sessions and consultation on all Schedules of the Bill