



Settlement
Council
of Australia

23 November 2020

Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee
PO Box 100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Re: Immigration (Education) Amendment (Expanding Access to English Tuition) Bill 2020

Dear Committee Secretary,

The Settlement Council of Australia (SCoA) is grateful for the opportunity to make a submission to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee regarding the Immigration (Education) Amendment (Expanding Access to English Tuition) Bill 2020 (the Bill).

SCoA is the peak body representing the vast majority of settlement agencies across Australia providing direct services and support to people of migrant and refugee backgrounds.

SCoA supports the Bill to expand access to the Adult Migrant English Program. This Bill will make a positive difference to migrants and refugees who are working hard to improve their English, and it will ensure more people can achieve a higher level of English proficiency. Greater English language proficiency has flow on effects into employment, income levels, social participation, and outcomes for the children of migrants and refugees.

The Bill is a particularly welcome initiative for migrants and refugees who have lost employment due to COVID-19 and are looking to invest time in building their English language proficiency and other skills. The changes will also be of particular benefit to primary caregivers. In the past, the five-year limitation has meant many who took time out to care for their children missed out on the opportunity to invest in English language learning, thereby disproportionately impacting women.

SCoA supports the measures in the Bill and welcomes its passage. For further information or to discuss our views further, please contact me

Yours faithfully,

Sandra Einew Wright
Chief Executive Officer