

**Joint Standing Committee on Migration****Chair: Ms Vamvakinou MP****Deputy Chair: Mrs Louise Markus MP**

Multiculturalism here to stay: peak body

The Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia says multiculturalism is the reality and policy in the area needs to focus on social inclusion and the benefits of cultural diversity.

FECCA chair Pino Migliorino will address the Parliament's Migration Committee at a public hearing at 10.45 am on Wednesday, 15 June 2011.

FECCA was established in 1979, and represents hundreds of grass roots organisations throughout the states and territories.

"The hearing will open dialogue with one of Australia's most important peak bodies working in the field," committee chair Ms Vamvakinou said.

"FECCA bring valuable expertise on the practical issues facing established and newly emerging migrant communities."

Ms Vamvakinou said the committee has received a wide range of views on the topic of multiculturalism.

"The hallmark of Australian multiculturalism has been its emphasis on welcoming new comers and respecting difference while promoting integration and participation," she said.

"Australia must retain a strong focus on equality of access to education, work and government and community services that all Australian's enjoy. It is through practical measures that promote social inclusion that we also build social cohesion."

The hearing will commence at 10.45 am in Committee Room 1R4, Parliament House, Canberra and will be audio broadcast. Further information about the inquiry can be obtained from the Committee's website www.aph.gov.au/mig or from the Secretariat on (02) 6277 4560.

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