



Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia

MEDIA RELEASE

FECCA CALLS ATTENTION TO WOMEN'S RIGHTS AT WORK

This International Women's Day (8 March), the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) is calling attention to the potential ill effects of the award modernisation process on women from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds.

International Women's Day recognises the global contributions made by women, while drawing attention to the hardships they continue to face.

"In particular, FECCA is concerned that modern awards tend to emphasise broader, more general workplace issues, at the expense of women, including those with family and carer responsibilities. Those with poor bargaining power in the workplace, such as CALD women, have traditionally depended on awards and are unlikely to be able to negotiate for better working conditions," said FECCA Women's Chair, Helen Sara.

"Parallel to this, FECCA is concerned that the National Employment Standards dealing with the requesting of flexible working arrangements and the extension of parental leave do not translate into enforceable entitlements," Ms Sara concluded.

"This International Women's Day we need to recognise the social and economic contribution that CALD women make to Australian society, and ensure their needs are not sidelined in the award modernisation process," said Pino Migliorino, FECCA Chair.

March 8, 2010. Media comment: Pino Migliorino 0411 137 700