



## FECCA CONGRATULATES GOVERNMENT ON REFUGEE REFORMS

The Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) today congratulated the Rudd Government on the significant restoration of the human rights of refugees following this week's sitting of Federal Parliament.

New laws were passed this week which abolish immigration detention debts thereby ending the cruel, inhumane and ineffective system of billing immigration detainees for their stay in detention.

The Senate also voted down attempts to overturn Government reforms that restore equitable work rights for asylum seekers in Australia so as to lessen their chances of becoming destitute.

In further good news the Rudd Government also introduced new laws to better protect refugees at further risk of death, torture and inhumane treatment if deported.

"It is terrific news that Australia is in the process of restoring decency and a human rights focus to our immigration and refugee policies. Minister Chris Evans and the Senators who have supported these measures deserve to be congratulated for their stand this week," said Voula Messimeri, AM, FECCA Chair.

"Australia can again begin to hold its head high as a country that treats people who are often fleeing persecution, misery and worse with more dignity and respect. We look forward to seeing further reforms under the Government and also participating in reinstating and redeveloping Australia's multicultural policies in the coming months", concluded Ms Messimeri.

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