



June 23, 2017

ECCV response to proposed citizenship changes

The Federal Department for Immigration & Border Protection has proposed citizenship changes which would result in increased powers that would allow government to influence citizenship applications.

ECCV encourages organisations and community groups to have their views heard.

Issues update:

The Federal Department is proposing to tighten citizenship requirements to be introduced this week:

- Applicants will be required greater English language skills than at present
- Applicants will need to demonstrate a commitment to Australian values
- Federal Immigration Minister will have the ability to substitute those Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) decisions, that is with a re-cancellation of the visa
- An increased fee of \$1,731 will be payable by all new citizenship applicants for a review by the Migration & Refugee Division
- Applicants will have less time than at present to lodge arduous amounts of paperwork for their applications

ECCV response:

The main responses to the citizenship changes proposed by the Federal Department for Immigration & Border Protection are:

- Citizenship should be celebrated, not be a burden for families, communities and all levels of governments
- Extending citizenship eligibilities puts people's sense of belonging and integration into Australian society at risk
- High-level English language should not be a pre-requisite for citizenship, as many of people prior to these literacy requirements have made high-level contributions to education in our communities through their decedents

For more information and/or media comment, please contact Leenie Fabri, Communications & Media Officer, lfabri@eccv.org.au / 0422 480 319