



19<sup>th</sup> October 2017

### **ECCV applauds the rejection of the proposed citizenship bill**

The Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria (ECCV) applauds the rejection of the proposed citizenship bill in the senate yesterday evening.

The ECCV Chairperson Eddie Micallef "believes that the Australian citizenship eligibility with an over-focus on high levels of English language competence would exclude vulnerable people such as refugees who have experienced disrupted education".

Micallef says, "the current process for testing English is tight enough". He continues, "I've attended plenty of citizenship ceremonies throughout the years and the look of glee and appreciation radiates from people".

ECCV believes that it is unreasonable to expect hardworking, nation building migrants to pass a university level of English.

Micallef supports "that Australian citizenship provides a common bond that gives us a sense of belonging and pride in our achievements as a nation and unites all Australians, regardless of whether we were born in Australia or have decided to make Australia our home".

ECCV welcomes opportunities for shorter citizenship eligibility periods as recognition for the contributions of inspiring citizens in our community rather than the "" years that were proposed.

**For more information and/or media comment, please contact Leenie Fabri, Communications & Media Officer via [lfabri@eccv.org.au](mailto:lfabri@eccv.org.au) / 0422 480 319**

#### References:

1. [http://eccv.org.au/library/ECCV\\_Submission\\_to\\_DIBP\\_on\\_Strengthening\\_Citizenship\\_Test\\_FINAL.pdf](http://eccv.org.au/library/ECCV_Submission_to_DIBP_on_Strengthening_Citizenship_Test_FINAL.pdf)
2. <http://eccv.org.au/community/media-releases/response-to-proposed-citizenship-changes/>