



**MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITIES COUNCIL  
OF NEW SOUTH WALES INCORPORATED**

(MCC NSW Inc. 14401100)

For a Multicultural New South Wales

All correspondence to Chair – PO Box 298 Kingsgrove NSW 2208 Australia

**MEDIA RELEASE 16 October 2020**

The Multicultural Communities Council of NSW (MCC) unequivocally condemns the ethnic based questioning by Senator Eric Abetz of Australian citizens appearing before the Senate committee examining issues facing diaspora communities in Australia.

The Senate Committee was hearing from Yun Jiang, Osmond Chiu and Wesa Chau, who told the inquiry many Chinese Australians feel intimidated in speaking out on issues concerning their community and their country.

Senator Abetz asked all three witnesses if they were prepared to “unconditionally condemn the Chinese Communist Party dictatorship”. Only representatives with an historical Chinese ancestry were asked such a question.

This line of questioning was completely irrelevant to the inquiry. Mr Chiu was born in Australia and his family have lived here for half a century. Demanding that an Australian refute allegiances to a foreign government simply based on his ethnic background is McCarthyism style abuse by Eric Abetz of his role as a Senator in the Australian Government.

The MCC made its own submission to the Senate Committee in July this year stressing the importance to ensure there is not a disengagement between diaspora communities with main stream society. People from our diversity of ethnic communities should be empowered, not separated or divided. Senator Abetz is clearly lacking in understanding the asset that multiculturalism has been to Australia’s historical development and is to our economy today.

The Morrison Government must denounce Senator Abetz's behaviour and commit to building and maintaining a cohesive and harmonious multicultural society in Australia.

Dr Anthony Pun, OAM  
Chair, MCC NSW

Mr Mark Franklin  
Director, MCC NSW

On behalf of  
The Multicultural Communities Council of NSW Inc.