



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Social Services**

Senator the Hon Kate Lundy  
Chair  
Senate Finance and Public Administration Reference Committee  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Senator Lundy

**CLARIFICATION OF EVIDENCE PROVIDED BY THE FEDERATION OF ETHNIC COMMUNITIES' COUNCILS OF AUSTRALIA (FECCA) DURING THE SENATE INQUIRY INTO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN AUSTRALIA**

I am writing to correct the record on a matter raised at the Committee Hearing on 15 October 2014 in Canberra. Page 38 of the Hansard records evidence given by FECCA that could be interpreted as the organisation not being invited to participate in national roundtables to inform the development of the Second Action Plan of the *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022*.

These roundtables, along with a written submission process, were the mechanism through which the Commonwealth Government engaged with civil society to develop the Second Action Plan.

FECCA was emailed an invitation to attend the national roundtable discussions on 22 January 2014. FECCA responded on 23 January 2014, advising they were unable to attend. DSS subsequently received a written submission from FECCA on 14 March 2014.

I understand FECCA has also written to you to clarify its understanding of the question posed and the answer provided to the Committee.

Better understanding and responding to cultural and linguistically diverse (CALD) women's experience of violence is a priority for the Second Action Plan. The Department is working with multicultural and CALD communities and organisations to implement the Second Action Plan, and look forward to continuing discussions with key organisations such as FECCA.

Yours sincerely

Cate McKenzie  
Group Manager  
Multicultural, Settlement Service and Communities Group

7 November 2014