

MEDIA RELEASE



FECCA CONDEMNS SHAMEFUL HIJAB BAN PROPOSAL

The Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia has slammed the Retailers Association and its Director, Scott Driscoll, for stating that people wearing face covering religious attire should be banned from shops.

"These are appalling statements from the Retailers Association which amounts to discrimination of the worst kind. Australia is a free, democratic and culturally diverse society where people have the absolute right to dress as they choose", said Acting FECCA Chair, Beryl Mulder.

"If the Retailers Association persist with this grossly irresponsible, disrespectful and hurtful if not hateful policy, FECCA suggests that Australians who support cultural diversity and the right of people of different religious faiths to wear religious attire boycott both the retailers association and any companies associated with them.

"FECCA would also advise the many Australian small businesses run by people from ethnic backgrounds who may be members of the Retailers Association to withdraw their membership from this organisation if the organisation does not fully withdraw these statements.

FECCA recognises that these statements are in no way associated with the larger Australian Retailers Association who have shown strong moral leadership in responding to this issue.

January 16 2009. Media comment: Beryl Mulder 0418 821 912 – Peter van Vliet 0421 558 544.