



## Media Release

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13<sup>th</sup> Nov, 2014

### **#457Visa: A decision in haste is a waste.**

ECCWA President, Dr. Zarrin S Siddiqui today condemned the Education Minister's announcement that families on 457 visa will pay 4000 annually for kids in public schools.

"It will be great to see how much effect it will make on the WA economy to penalize families on 457 visa", commented Dr. Siddiqui. "Many of these families already have to pay extra tuition fees for the kids because of different curriculum, language barriers which is much more if the kid is in high school. In addition there is money to be spent on different school activities. The conditions attached to 457 visa also do not allow an employee to leave job and move to a different state".

"The very first thing that these families face when they arrive in Western Australia is the housing crisis, then comes insurance and daily living costs on the top of which now they have to pay tuition fee. We also know that the countries from where major recruitment on 457 visa occurs take pride in strong family values like India and Pakistan and they have an additional burden of sending their earnings back home so their extended families live comfortably."

"Similarly the statement that illness and unemployment will be considered for partial or fully waived fees does not hold any logic because if a person is unemployed, he/she is not on 457 visa."

"There are families on 457 visa where both spouses are working and earning a good income but they are already sending their kids to private schools."

In recent years ECCWA has observed that decisions are made without any consultations till they are finalized but this trend needs to be changed and public and ethnic communities need to be engaged in debates before such propositions are tabled. It is reality that to build Australia we need people on 457 visa to come and contribute and for many on 457 visa the ultimate dream is to make this beautiful place home. We are already seeing that highly talented pool of people are turning down the requests to come to WA and an initiative like today's announcement serves the cause no better than it already is.