



Value our VALUE OUR VOICES

6 July 2007

Dear stations, programmers and community organisations,

I write as President of the National Ethnic and Multicultural Broadcasters' Council (NEMBC) to appeal for your help during the 2007 federal election campaign.

We are embarking on a nationwide campaign to secure more funding for community broadcasting. The NEMBC is working alongside the Community Broadcasting Association of Australia (CBAA) and other organisations to obtain commitments to increase our funding in crucial areas such as:

- **Program Content** - an extra \$1.9 million to lift the per hour program content rate back to 1996 levels (in 1996 we received \$48 per hour but in 2006/7 it is only \$35.35 per hour!)
- **Infrastructure** - an urgent upgrade of outdated station equipment
- **Training** - continuation of the National Training Project and at least \$200,000 for dedicated training for ethnic broadcasters

The most important things for ethnic broadcasters are funding for program content and ethnic-focussed training programs. We raise 80% of our own funding and it is important that the federal government invests more.

The NEMBC will be putting this proposal to federal members of parliament and candidates. We would like to involve you, your listeners, communities and supporters at state and regional levels in this campaign. Without your support we cannot make our voice heard.

The 2007 federal election will be fought over competing visions of the sort of Australia voters want. An inclusive and democratic Australia is a vision we all share. The ethnic community broadcasting sector is vital to that vision.

This year's election gives both major parties a chance to show how much they value the role of migrant Australians. Do our politicians want to develop cultural diversity? Or will they continue to undervalue the fundamental contribution ethnic broadcasters make to Australian life? Will they ignore thousands of volunteer hours spent keeping communities informed, connected and strong?

The next federal government must improve the funding base of community broadcasting generally and ethnic broadcasting in particular. You can help by making the politicians give ethnic community broadcasting a FAIR GO!

In this kit you will find details about the NEMBC campaign, some useful background information on the state of ethnic community broadcasting, facts about general community broadcasting and some things you can do to help.

Please don't just put this aside. The election is likely to be in late October or November - do something today!

Think ethnic community broadcasting before you vote and tell your community to do the same!

George Zangalis
President
National Ethnic and Multicultural Broadcasters' Council