

# Elections 2010

## Vote Ethnic Community Broadcasting



## What you can do

Now is the time for ethnic community broadcasters and our stations to obtain commitments from all political parties for an increase in funding for the volunteers at community radio stations. The last increase, except for a partial indexation, was back in 1998. Since then many communities, new migrants and refugees have used and need to use ethnic radio.

### *Today ethnic community broadcasting includes:*

- 130 radio stations (including 6 full-time ethnic stations)
- Over 2,000 hours of ethnic community broadcasting each week
- Over 3,000 volunteers from 125 distinct cultural groups
- Broadcasts in 100 languages across metropolitan, regional and country Australia
- Support from 50,000 members and long-term supporters
- A network reaching out to 2 million listeners

The costs of running community radio and planning for expansion are stretching the capacity of our low paid and unwaged constituencies.

- The Government contribution to community radio stations meets less than 20% of station costs.
- Volunteers' unpaid work saves the Government \$232 million every year.

Ethnic community broadcasting produces more than four times the hours of the government-funded SBS services. SBS Radio, which is totally funded by government, received \$21 million in 2006-07, at a cost of \$1,500 per one-hour program, in contrast to the \$2.7 million going to ethnic community broadcasting, at a cost of \$35 per one-hour program.

Ethnic community radio is an essential service that provides settlement and other vital information, links people and their communities, educates, entertains and involves people in local and national affairs. It maintains and promotes culture and language and is a champion of multiculturalism, helping to shape a diverse, harmonious and inclusive Australian society.

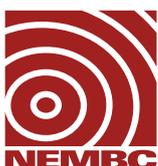
Ethnic community broadcasting badly needs additional funding to maintain and improve program making, training, entry and use of new technologies. All it needs from Government to do this is 6% of what Government gives to the ABC and SBS.

### *What you and your station can do*

There are many electorates in Australia with a large and often dominant number of non-English speaking citizens – some will be voting for the first time.

- Invite candidates and political leaders to tour your station and sit for an interview.
- Ask your listeners and community leaders to contact local candidates explain the importance of ethnic community radio and seek their support.
- Talk about funding for ethnic community broadcasting in your own program.

For more information contact your radio station or the NEMBC.



*Think and Vote Ethnic Community Broadcasting*

Contact: 03 9486 9549 | [www.nembc.org.au](http://www.nembc.org.au) | [admin@nembc.org.au](mailto:admin@nembc.org.au)