



Hon. Malcolm Turnbull MP  
Minister for Communications  
House of Representatives  
Canberra ACT2600  
Via email [malcolm.turnbull.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:malcolm.turnbull.mp@aph.gov.au)

9 May 2014

Dear Minister,

I write on behalf of the Ethnic Community Radio Station 3ZZZ in Melbourne to convey to you and through you to the Prime Minister and Treasurer our members grave concerns at the Audit Commission's recommendation to terminate the very modest Federal Government Funding to Community Radio provided by bipartisan support for over 30 years in recognition of the unique and valuable community service the thousands of volunteer broadcasters make to the nation.

To ethnic communities, community broadcasting has been and remains a life line for settlement community building and participation in the affairs of their communities and the nation. The 100 community radio stations broadcasting in over 120 languages - 68 of them through 3ZZ across the length and breadth of Australia involving 4500 volunteer broadcasters and over 50,000 members and a conservative 2.5 million listeners have become a major multilingual and multicultural institutions, critically contributing to the nation's economic and social wellbeing, practically shaping and reinforcing multiculturalism the glue that binds our nation together.

Government funding to community broadcasting in general and ethnic programs in particular, of \$17m including \$4.5m for ethnic programs, fades into insignificance compared to the over \$1billion to the ABC and \$220 million to SBS. Ethnic community broadcasters put to air four time as many programs than SBS. By far most of the money needed to operate community radio stations is raised by member's listeners and their wider communities. Unquestionably Government funding makes the difference between surviving and death. It is integral to existence and success of the third tier of Australian broadcasting.

Broadcasters and their communities have invested a great lot in human and financial effort and indeed sacrifice in this fine and unique Australian enterprise. 3ZZZ and all other community radio stations acknowledging with appreciation federal funding.

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Ending or reducing this funding will lead without any doubt to the demise of this vital service to so many communities and the abandonment of a foundation tenet of media diversity and multiculturalism.

I urge you again Minister to reject this catastrophic socially unjust and divisive recommendation and assure us that the long standing funding policy that has been integral to the welfare of community radio and especially ethnic radio is maintained and indeed positively developed.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'George Salloum', with a horizontal line drawn through it.

George Salloum  
President - 3ZZZ 92.3