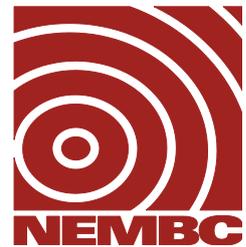


MEDIA RELEASE



2 May 2014

Ethnic community radio at risk of losing ALL funds

The ethnic community broadcasting sector is outraged that the National Commission of Audit Report has recommended cutting all funding to community broadcasting in the Federal Budget to be announced 13 May 2014.

The President of the National Ethnic and Multicultural Broadcasters' Council Dr Tangi Steen said that ethnic community broadcasting plays a vital role in our community and the loss of funds could be devastating for our sector. "Ethnic community broadcasting plays a vital role in building the incredible social cohesion and harmony that exists in Australia and this cut could mean the end of ethnic radio programs and the closure of radio stations," Dr Steen said.

"Australia would suffer as a nation; it would be a major setback for diversity. Particularly under threat would be regional and rural radio stations and new emerging communities that use community radio to assist their inclusion into our society," Dr Steen said.

"There seems to be a lack of understanding from the Commission in the role that the community broadcasting sector plays as 'third sector' media. We are already extremely cost effective and the small financial support we receive from the government is used to help sustain a sector already under pressure," Dr Steen said.

"We hope that the government will see reason when it develops its budget over the coming week and will continue to see the valuable role that community broadcasting and ethnic community broadcasting plays," Dr Steen said.

"We strongly agree with the CBBA that the community broadcasting sector is a smart investment: for every dollar the government puts in, the social outcome is huge."

The ethnic community broadcasting sector harnesses the skills, expertise and time of over 4000 volunteers from 125 distinct cultural groups to produce over 2,118 hours of content every week. Government investment is critical in sustaining and building the capacity of this low-cost, volunteer-driven sector.

Ethnic community broadcasters need to be aware of this potential budget cut; so stay informed. Please contact us at the NEMBC, contact your local politician to voice your concerns at these potential cuts, we will be sending you more information and the CBAA will also be keeping community stations informed.

**For more information contact the NEMBC Secretariat
Executive Officer Russell Anderson on: 03 9486 9549**

National Ethnic and Multicultural Broadcasters' Council

PO Box 1144, Collingwood VIC 3066 | Phone: (03) 9486 9549 | Fax: (03) 9486 9547

Email: exec@nembc.org.au | Website: www.nembc.org.au