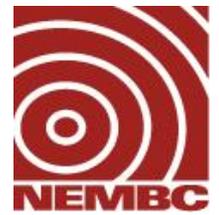


# MEDIA RELEASE

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7 March 2016



**PROTECT**  
**ethnic**  
**and**  
**community**  
**broadcasting**

## Serious threat to independence of ethnic community broadcasting

Despite strong opposition from ethnic community broadcasters and many others within the community broadcasting sector, the CBF announced last week that it will go ahead with a new governance and structural model.

“The changes will have a dramatic impact on how ethnic community broadcasters continue to broadcast in Australia. The **National Ethnic and Multicultural Broadcasters Council (NEMBC)** will maintain its campaign against the disempowering changes being implemented by the CBF” said NEMBC President Dr Tangi Steen.

“The NEMBC represents all the ethnic stations and programs, reaching supporters and audience of over 5 million people throughout Australia” said Vice President of the NEMBC Mr. Nick Dmyterko.

“The CBF’s new model will mainstream and dilute ethnic funding that will mean ethnic radio stations will lose funding, ethnic language programs jeopardised and metro and regional stations will lose their incentive to attract and broadcast new language programs” said Mr Dmyterko.

“We are concerned that ethnic community broadcasting will be controlled by a small group of people - the CBF Board - that will hand-pick its own organisation. Under the CBF’s changes, democratic processes will be abolished and the NEMBC will be excluded from any say in how funds are to be distributed to ethnic community broadcasting. The new CBF board will make decisions and determine new guidelines without democratic ethnic community representation” said Dr Steen and Mr Dmyterko.

**“The NEMBC is asking all ethnic community broadcasters and stations to boycott the CBF’s new model and boycott the call for nominations for any of the positions on the board or committees”** stated Dr Steen.

“The NEMBC has asked the **Government to keep the present funding arrangements**. The CBF’s consultation process was compromised because only a single model was proposed and there was no consideration of other viable governance models. We have also asked the Government to conduct a **fair and independent review of the CBF** because the in-house review process just concluded failed to identify efficiencies, costs and benefits to justify any of the proposed changes” said Dr Steen.

“The CBF’s plans to move quickly to set up a new board and organization and no guidelines for grants have been provided. Ethnic broadcasters are being asked to hand over all their democratic rights and trust a process that has been questionable from the beginning” said Mr Dmyterko.

“Ethnic community broadcasting is integral to multiculturalism, and the present system to determine the funds dispersal has helped to build social cohesion and inclusion, maintain language and culture and combat racism. The proposed radical changes by the CB will mean this level playing field will become highly competitive, which will create community and sector tensions” said Mr Dmyterko.

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