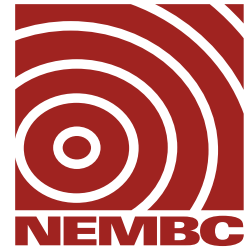


16 September 2010

## Gillard Urged to Reinstate Multicultural Affairs Position



The President of the National Ethnic and Multicultural Broadcasters' Council (NEMBC), Mr Victor Marillanca, wrote to Prime Minister Julia Gillard today in an open letter protesting the abolition of the position of Parliamentary Secretary for Multicultural Affairs.

"It has taken Australia many years of effort and struggle to part with policies of assimilation and recognise that multiculturalism is the glue that binds all Australians and the nation together," Mr Marillanca wrote.

"Multicultural policies and services in a nation like ours deserve and demand the attention of a full minister working closely with ethnic and multicultural communities. The abolition of the multicultural portfolio is a step backwards."

Mr Marillanca urged the Prime Minister to reinstate the position of Multicultural Affairs and upgrade it to the status of a full ministry.

"That," wrote Mr Marillanca, "will be a much-needed vote of confidence in multicultural Australia."

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