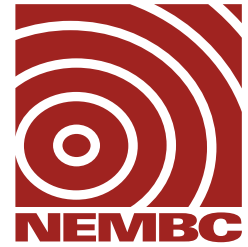


# MEDIA RELEASE

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18 February 2011



## Ethnic Broadcasters welcome government's multicultural position

**Australia's ethnic community broadcasters welcome the Federal Government's decision to re-affirm the nation's multicultural commitment and to re-instate the portfolio of Multicultural Affairs, said Ms Tangi Steen, Acting President of the National Ethnic and Multicultural Broadcasters Council (NEMBC).**

The NEMBC which represents hundreds of community organisations broadcasting in 100 languages, through 130 Community Radio Stations across Australia, had urged the Government to take these steps during the last election. "Immigration and multiculturalism had been presented as problems and indeed threats, instead of being promoted and defended as the nation's pillars of unity and progress. The announcement by the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, on Wednesday, goes a long way to recommitting to multiculturalism and supports the uniqueness and strengths of Australia's cultural diversity", said Ms Steen.

Ms Steen looks forward to the Government, the Minister for Immigration, and the Parliamentary Secretary for Multicultural Affairs ensuring that multicultural and settlement programs, including funding for ethnic broadcasting are given national priority.

This is also the time, Ms Steen concluded, for the Government to end the inhuman detention of boat refugees and the Federal opposition to support the government in this.

*For more information contact:*

Tangi Steen, Acting President and Vice President NEMBC on: 0418 804 988  
George Zangalis, Honorary Executive Director on: 0417 319 705.