

Notice to all Ethnic Community Broadcasters

23 March 2016

Dear Station Manager, Broadcasters and Presenters

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 NEMBC is asking all ethnic community broadcasters and stations to boycott the Community Broadcasting Foundation (CBF)'s new model and boycott the call for nominations for any of the positions on the board or committees.

We seek your support in boycotting the CBF's nomination process and ask you to please read this out on your program.

We seek managers support to make sure that it goes to air in as many languages and in as many time-slots as possible, as well as making copies and distributing it to all your presenters, on notice-boards or in pigeon holes.



PROTECT
ethnic
and
community
broadcasting

MEDIA RELEASE

Despite strong opposition from ethnic community broadcasters and many others within the community broadcasting sector, the Community Broadcasting Foundation (CBF) announced recently that it will go ahead with a new model of funding and management.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

The NEMBC has asked the **Government to keep the present funding arrangements.**

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 CBF will mean this level playing field will become highly competitive, which will create community and sector tensions.

For more information, contact NEMBC Executive Officer Russell Anderson (03) 9486 9549

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Sincerely,



Dr Tangi Steen
NEMBC President



Nick Dmyterko
NEMBC Vice president

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