

# The Ethnic Broadcaster

Summer/Autumn 2002 Edition  
National Ethnic and Multicultural Broadcasters' Council



## Barriers to Broadcasting

Inside:

Reporting on Refugees

New & Emerging  
Communities

Hip Hop: a way of life

2001 Conference Reports

Identity, Language &  
Broadcasting

## **PRESIDENT'S PEN**

### **PLANNING AHEAD – THE PRIORITIES**



The March meeting of the NEMBC Executive was held in Adelaide March 9<sup>th</sup>–10<sup>th</sup>. Having reviewed the situation in our broadcasting sector and considered the tasks and priorities for the next two years, the Executive resolved that:

1. Greater recognition by government for the invaluable role and services provided by ethnic community broadcasters becomes an even more pressing priority. The last increase in funding occurred six years ago in 1996 and since then ethnic community broadcasting has increased by 50%. Current funding for the Australian Ethnic Radio Training Project runs out next year and the government's decision not to fund the project in this year's budget, is a serious [even fatal] blow to a scheme that has trained over 2500 broadcasters. It is therefore important that the government's decision is changed.

2. The previously identified areas of concern and growth, the greater involvement of young people and new/emerging communities, will be given top priority.

3. NEMBC resources will be directed more towards further strengthening and consolidating the sector's absolutely primary asset: ethnic broadcasters and their communities.

The Executive noted that communicating and working with broadcasters, their stations and communities, listening and responding to grass roots needs, and evaluating programs and projects would require a considerable degree of refocussing and reorganising of the NEMBC's work. Whilst policy development should never cease, the Executive felt that implementation and monitoring of the excellent policies we have recently developed would be given greater attention.

The Executive also confirmed that the next NEMBC Conference would be held in Adelaide in November.

It looks like we are going to have a busy time ahead of us, with some barriers becoming harder to overcome. However I believe we can face the future with confidence in our collective capacity to survive and progress.

**George Zangalis**  
**NEMBC President**

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# The Election & Ethnic Community Broadcasters

**It now seems like a long time since the federal election but the election does have important implications for all ethnic community broadcasters. The NEMBC along side all the other sectors in community broadcasting ran a spirited campaign to try and get an increase in funding not just for ethnic community broadcasters but for all community broadcasters.**

The governor general's attitudes to sexual abuse, the children overboard affair and the fraudulent accusations about High Court Justice Michael Kirby, (not to mention the morals of AFL footballers) have been dominating the news headlines. However the election means that ethnic community broadcasting must operate with the same level of funding as prior to the election as we were unable to get a commitment to new funding from either the government or the ALP.

What this means is that neither party was prepared to recognise a need for increased funding to match the growth that has taken place in

community broadcasting and particularly in ethnic community broadcasting. For ethnic community broadcasters however the commitment to maintaining current levels of funding means that no funding has been earmarked for the Australian Ethnic Radio Training Project (AERTP).

Australian Ethnic Radio Training Project was funded with a one off endowment in 1992. With prudent expenditure the initial grant of \$1.4 million has been made to last for 10 years. The project has trained 2500 ethnic community broadcasters at half the average cost of other workplace training.

The head of the policy advice committee for the Australian Ethnic Radio Training Project, Professor Mary Kalantzis said, "It just doesn't make any sense that a highly successful and cost-effective training scheme does not get refunded. Surely it is the role of government to support the efforts of volunteer broadcasters with training so that their work is as effective as possible".



The NEMBC with the support of all other sector bodies in community broadcasting and with the support of the ethnic sector will continue to argue the case for the refunding of AERTP. While there is currently enough funding left for the 2002-3 financial year it is important that we get a commitment from government to refund the project as soon as possible.

Community broadcasting, like many other issues got lost in the 'refugee election'. However it is things like ethnic community broadcasting that actually make a difference to people on the ground and we need to be making this point over and over again to politicians at all levels and from all parties.



# Reporting on Refugees

**While the recent so-called “children overboard affair” has done much to expose the role politicians (and senior public servants) play in manipulating public opinion, it has done little to question the mainstream media’s coverage of the refugee issue.**

Of course, many journalists would claim that it was their persistence that led to the uncovering of the truth about the photos of refugees in the sea. To a certain extent this is right, but has the media’s role been as squeaky clean as they would have us believe?

Certainly in the early days of coverage of the arrival of boats from Indonesia, terms such as “illegal boat people” and “queue jumpers” were commonly used by all of the mainstream media including the ABC and SBS. The federal government’s press releases telling us that we were about to be inundated by a ‘flood’ of people who were not like us were unquestioningly reprinted and retold by all the major media outlets.

There were very few stories about the inability of most of the people arriving here by boat to join a queue which did not exist in their own country. Strangely, there were almost no stories from the detention centres themselves,



despite the fact that it was possible to make contact by phone with people inside.

Refugee advocates and the refugees themselves have had a hard time getting their message across to the public. Certainly refugee advocates who were former refugees themselves were not seen as credible sources of information.

During the recent disturbances in the Woomera Detention Centre, the Refugee Action Collective program at Radio Skid Row Sydney broadcast long phone interviews with people protesting inside. At the same time the mainstream media was outside the detention centre, being moved further away by police. Eventually, the ABC started to run short snippets of comments from detainees, the rest of the media did not follow suit.

Of course, now the children overboard affair has raised questions about the credibility of government statements, the media has become more cautious about its

assumptions concerning truth and reliability on the issue. It is no longer safe for them to unquestioningly accept statements from the government, however it may take longer for them to see refugees and their supporters as credible sources.

As community broadcasters it is important for us to remain cautious about relying on the mainstream media for information on these issues. There are many sources of information including some of the websites and email addresses listed on page 7. It is also possible to record interviews with people in detention centres over the phone and to visit them to hear their stories for yourself.

**Nicola Joseph  
Radio Skid Row**



Cartoon by a former asylum seeker

# New and Emerging Communities: New Broadcasters

**In recent years Australia has accepted migrants and refugees from a wider range of countries than ever before. When they settle in Australia they face a number of barriers, from discrimination and uncertainty in the housing market, to difficulty having their overseas skills and work experience recognised.**

At the same time, given their small numbers and short length of residence in Australia, they do not have the support of an established community of people from their own ethnic background. Most of these new communities have no media in their own language.

It is important that the community broadcasting sector recognises the need to address the changing population of Australia, as well as the changing landscape of media available in community languages. Four languages, Greek, Spanish, Italian and German have more than 80 hours of broadcasting around the country. At the other end of the scale there are 50 language groups that have less than four hours of broadcasting nationwide.

The NEMBC has recently begun carrying out research into best practice models of working with new and emerging communities including refugee groups. This includes identifying the barriers

which exist for these groups in community broadcasting, as well as developing ways of offering support to groups when they are getting started.

An advisory committee of settlement workers and broadcasters has already come up with some proposals for changes to funding for new and emerging communities. This funding would include an initial one-off grant to help new broadcasters establish their programs.

However, outside of funding solutions there are other ways to address the imbalance and to get new language groups involved in community radio. The idea that the only thing community radio has to offer ethnic communities is blocks of weekly programming needs to be reconsidered. New communities which are made up of people still looking for work, housing etc often find it difficult to sustain weekly programs.

They could find it beneficial to get involved with projects that are

multiethnic or one-off productions. At the same time, partnerships with local migrant resource centres and other settlement services can create the support the groups need to produce radio. This gives them an opportunity to have a "taste" of radio before committing themselves to a "full meal" so to speak.

The NEMBC research project, which has been funded by the Myer Foundation, will produce a handbook for community radio stations with guidelines on how to work with smaller, emerging communities. The NEMBC will also produce promotional material about community radio in some of the many languages that are new and emerging in Australia. The information will also be available at the NEMBC website.

If you are a member of an emerging community that has started broadcasting, you may want to share your story with others. You can contact Nicola Joseph, the co-ordinator of the research project on [nicolaj@ozemail.com.au](mailto:nicolaj@ozemail.com.au).

# BARRIERS to Broadcasting

**Below are some of the barriers identified by the NEMBC as making it difficult for emerging and refugee communities to become ethnic community broadcasters.**

Most of the barriers are common to both refugee and emerging communities although some of them are probably more significant for refugees. These barriers have been identified after consultations with communities, broadcasters, stations and organisations working with emerging communities.

## **DON'T KNOW ABOUT COMMUNITY RADIO**

Many new migrants don't know that community radio exists in Australia. The importance of information being available about ethnic community broadcasting in the languages of emerging communities cannot be underestimated. Other strategies include incorporating ethnic radio information in DIMIA services and "visits to the radio station" into English language teaching courses.

## **LACK OF ENGLISH SKILLS**

Communities with low literacy rates in English are less likely to access

the information needed to start a radio program.

## **LACK OF AWARENESS OF FUNDING AND TRAINING AVAILABLE**

Many community members and organisations had no idea that funding was available for programs and that training could also be arranged. If the government fails to refund the Australian Ethnic Radio Training Project (AERTP) this will be an enormous impediment to the involvement of emerging and refugee communities in broadcasting. Without these funds specific funds for training emerging and refugee communities will need to be found.

## **LACK OF CONFIDENCE**

This was especially the case with women's groups and was linked to both a lack of English but also the dislocation which is experienced after migration.

## **LACK OF MOBILITY**

Transport is one of the biggest obstacles in large cities and especially in relation to women's groups. Arranging transport or funding for transport is the solution.

## **MAKING RADIO MAY NOT BE A PRIORITY DURING THE FIRST STAGES OF SETTLEMENT**

Where communities are newly settled they are in the process of finding employment, training, housing etc. While they would certainly be listeners of the program, many may not be able to get involved in making the program.

## **NOT ENOUGH PEOPLE FROM THE COMMUNITY WANTING TO GET INVOLVED TO SUSTAIN A WEEKLY PROGRAM**

Many stations only offer weekly programs to communities as the path to become a broadcaster. The sector needs to create a development path into stations for emerging communities who cannot sustain weekly programs from the start. This can include radio projects, special broadcasts, segments, being part of a multicultural program, etc.

## **NOT ABLE TO SIGN UP ENOUGH PEOPLE AS MEMBERS IN ORDER TO QUALIFY FOR THE BROADCAST HOURS WHERE IT IS REQUIRED**

Once again, this is a question of economics and priorities in the first stages of settlement. The lack of awareness of ethnic community





broadcasting amongst community members also makes paying membership fees difficult. Stations with this sort of requirement need to waive it for emerging and refugee communities

**LACK OF RESOURCES TO PAY FOR THE AIRTIME WHERE APPLICABLE**

Some stations charge for their airtime and in many cases broadcasters rely on sponsorship and donations to pay their fees. Smaller communities cannot rely on sponsorship or donations. Again stations with this requirement need to waive it for emerging and refugee communities

**LACK OF AIRTIME**

Some stations identify the lack of airtime as a reason new communities aren't on air. Some stations identified the need to reshape their programming to accommodate new groups in their stations.

**STATIONS UNDER RESOURCED AND THEREFORE AREN'T PROACTIVE**

Community radio stations are very under resourced organisations and do not have the human or financial resources to provide outreach and

specialist services to emerging communities. Stations that want to work with emerging communities will need to strengthen their links with local settlement services and be proactive in the development of radio projects for new communities. To do this they will need to find additional sources of funds for such projects.

**LACK OF OPPORTUNITY TO COME IN CONTACT/ PARTICIPATE WITH THE STATION**

Stations need to develop station visits and open days, as well as inviting potential broadcasters to station events. They need to have Migrant Resource Centres and emerging community organisations participating in the station.

**FLEXIBLE TRAINING**

In some cases emerging communities are made up mostly of men. Other communities have significant groups of women with children and no male member of the family. Training needs to be both flexible and meet the specific needs of emerging communities to ensure all parts of these communities have access to the airwaves.

**News Sources On Refugee Issues:**

Ethnic News Digest  
[www.nembc.org.au](http://www.nembc.org.au)

Australians for Just Refugee Programs  
[www.justrefugeeprograms.com.au](http://www.justrefugeeprograms.com.au)

Indy Media  
[www.melbourne.indymedia.org](http://www.melbourne.indymedia.org)

Rural Australians for Refugees (RAR) New South Wales (Bellingen)  
 Email: [rac\\_bellingen@bigpond.com](mailto:rac_bellingen@bigpond.com)

Australian Lawyers for Human Rights  
[www.alhr.asn.au](http://www.alhr.asn.au)

Children Out of Detention  
[www.chilout.org](http://www.chilout.org)

We Are All Boatpeople  
[www.boat-people.org](http://www.boat-people.org)

Refugee Action Collective NSW  
[www.members.optusnet.com.au/~refugee/](http://www.members.optusnet.com.au/~refugee/)

Refugee Action Collective Victoria  
[www.rac-vic.org](http://www.rac-vic.org)

Refugee Council of Australia  
[www.refugeecouncil.org.au](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au)



# Beyond Tolerance

the national conference on racism

**The Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC) held a national conference in Sydney on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of March on racism called 'Beyond Tolerance'.**

The conference examined the nature and extent of racism in Australia and then a range of speakers outlined their views about how to tackle the challenges that lay ahead of us.

Speaker after speaker however referred to a deteriorating situation in relation to racism in Australia citing the treatment of refugees, the reduction in funding for human rights and ethnic/multicultural organisations and a failure to complete the reconciliation process as evidence of this deterioration.

The session on the media was possibly the most lively of the conference as the frustration felt by many of us towards the media in fanning and legitimising racism bubbled to the surface. Some on the media panel claimed that it was not their role to educate and that the media weren't 'social workers'. However these attempts to duck responsibility for their actions were rejected by participants who called on the media to take greater responsibility for human rights and the fight against racism.



Another highlight of the conference was the insightful contribution made by a range of indigenous speakers and participants over the course of the conference.

At the end of the conference the acting Race Discrimination Commissioner Dr William Jonas said that the road ahead would be difficult as those opposed to human rights try to paint themselves as the mainstream. He said, "Denial of racist intent – I'm not a racist ,but... – is an Australian cliché. Denial of racism is even more insidious when it infiltrates policy and political discourse"

A group of human rights and advocacy groups who attended the conference put the following resolution to the conference. While the conference did not formally endorse the resolution it does reflect the thinking of the great majority of people who attended the conference.

"That the National Conference on Racism expresses its grave

concerns that institutional racism in Australia is embodied in the lack of political leadership at the national, state and regional levels. Furthermore, the failure of successive Federal governments to fully incorporate human rights conventions into legislation perpetuates ongoing violations against indigenous peoples, refugees, ethnic minorities and other Australians.

We therefore urgently call for:

- (a) an end to divisive and negative language from our leaders and the media which fosters and reinforces racism,
- (b) an immediate end to mandatory sentencing and mandatory detention policies,
- (c) permanent appointment of a Federal Race Discrimination Commissioner,
- (d) the immediate establishment of a national committee to monitor the implementation of the World Conference Against Racism Declaration and Program of Action.

Many of the speeches delivered at the conference are available from the HREOC web site at [www.humanrights.gov.au](http://www.humanrights.gov.au).

**Bruce Francis**  
**NEMBC Executive Officer**





# Youth Funding Changes

## There have been some important changes regarding funding guidelines for ethnic youth broadcasting.

Up till now, specific ethnic youth program funding has only been available for "multicultural" youth programming. Whilst recognising the value of this sort of program, the NEMBC's Youth Committee recommended that similar funding guidelines also be extended to youth programming from specific communities.

This recommendation was accepted by the Ethnic Grants Advisory Committee and is now official CBF policy

In order to encourage stations to increase the number of young

people involved in ethnic broadcasting, there is now an additional hour of funding per language. This is in addition to the existing Multicultural Youth Development grants and Ethnic Programming grants.

To be eligible for this extra hour:

the age of the broadcasters must be under 30

in the first year that the program is broadcast, at least 25% of the spoken word content must be in a language other than English. In second and subsequent year, this language component must increase to 50%.

Further details of the funding guidelines are available from the CBF's website at [www.cbf.com.au](http://www.cbf.com.au).

## NEW YOUTH COMMITTEE 2002-2003

A new youth committee was also elected at the NEMBC Conference.

Current members are:

Jo Fettke QLD [Convenor]  
Naim Saifullah ACT  
Anthony Colombo NSW  
Martin de Weerd SA  
Kata Skratulja Tas  
Yalcin Adal VIC  
Vida Carabuva WA  
Helen Ho Ying Fung WA

If you're interested in getting in touch with the Youth Committee, send an email to [nembc@nembc.org.au](mailto:nembc@nembc.org.au).

## Easy To Digest

## මෙන්න සිංහල භාෂාවෙන් පුවත්

(Here is the news)

### The Ethnic News Digest, the NEMBC's Australian News and Current Affairs service, has added a new language to its service.

News stories are now available in **Sinhalese**.

There are 15 stations around Australia that have Sinhalese broadcasting and the Sri Lankan community has been heavily involved in ethnic community broadcasting since its beginnings. The service has also restarted **Turkish** after a change in volunteer translators.

The Ethnic News Digest provides short Australian news stories that are

written specifically for community radio broadcasters to use. It's easy to use and many broadcasters create a "Newsreader" position as a way of bringing a new, inexperienced broadcaster into their program.

News stories are currently available in:

Amharic [Ethiopian]	Polish
Croatian	Portuguese
Czech	Russian
Dutch	Serbian
English	Spanish
French	Tagalog [Filipino]
Indonesian	Turkish
Italian	Vietnamese.
Macedonian	

See the Digest at [www.nembc.org.au](http://www.nembc.org.au).

### ARABIC TRANSLATOR NEEDED

The Digest needs an Arabic translator. You need to have internet access and translate five short stories three times a week.

Interested? Send an email to [nembc@nembc.org.au](mailto:nembc@nembc.org.au) or ring [03] 9486 9549.



# Music for your

Albanian Ambient Bulgarian Carribbean Croatian Czech Georgian Pacific Islands PNG Russian West Indian Yiddish

# [Listeners'] Ears

## **Amrap is project designed to increase the amount of Australian recorded music played on community radio.**

Apart from funding stations to produce compilation CDs [see accompanying stories from 2NBC & 3ZZZ] Amrap also offers a CD Distribution service to help Australian musicians get

### **INKA MARKA**

On the Black Market record label, this was distributed to stations at the start of February. It's a wonderfully produced CD that seeks to "capture the rhythm of Andean life" and features pan flutes, charango, quena, guitar and goat skin drum.

from Paul Pearman Station Manager of Perth station 6EBA. It went out to stations in February.

### **CULTURE CONNECT**

One for the younger broadcasters. This hip hop outfit come from Darwin and feature a line up of members with diverse cultural backgrounds (PNG, Pacific Islands, Caribbean and West Indian). It's all in English and there's some



promotional copies of their CDs to community radio stations.

Musicians and record labels provide as many copies as they can afford of their CDs and Amrap distributes them to stations based on what sort of music is on the CD and which stations play that sort of music.

CDs are always sent from Amrap to a station address and it's worth checking in the record library and with the station manager to see if anything new has arrived recently. CDs are always marked clearly with an Amrap sticker that identifies the genre of music it is and highlights any specific language groups it may be of interest to. Below is a selection of CDs that Amrap has handled recently that may be of interest.

### **CAN BELTO**

Can Belto are a choir from Canberra whose independently released CD was distributed to stations in December 2001. Can Belto's repertoire features material in many different languages. This CD features songs from Albania, Bulgaria, Georgia, Croatia, and Czechoslovakia.

### **VU IS DUS GAZELE**

Released on the AM Records label and was distributed to stations in March. This compilation CD of contemporary and traditional Yiddish music addresses the Jewish experience and in particular the experience of Russian Jews.

### **ZEPHYR**

Probably best described as a mix between world, pop and ambient music, we've included this one because of the rave review it got

occasional coarse language but it's a dynamic, clever record that deserves attention.

Their CD was distributed to stations in September last year but they also had a track on the compilation CD that Amrap produced in conjunction with the noise festival. This CD also featured a beautiful electronic track by Poh Weng, under the name "Antarctic Bear" which he describes as "fusing traditional music with the modern electronica".

If you know of musicians in your community who have produced CDs and could benefit from this Amrap service, please give them the Amrap contact details and we will do our best to help them out.

### **Paul Mason**

**AMRAP Coordinator**  
**pmason@cbaa.orh.au**  
[02] 9310 2999



# Routes of Rhythm

**One of the most exciting activities for me last year was my involvement as producer in 3ZZZ's CD "Routes of Rhythm", a compilation of six exciting and previously unrecorded Melbourne groups.**

The project was funded by a grant from AMRAP and it was a project very close to my heart as I had been very active in Melbourne's music scene for many years.

I can honestly say that some of the most interesting music that I have heard has been music broadcast from community radio stations. Even though I cannot always understand the lyrics, I am often greatly moved by the music I hear, because the language of music is universal and communicates directly with the soul.

I believe that Australia has hundreds of very talented musicians who unfortunately do not get the opportunity to record their music. There are some wonderful collaborations between musicians from diverse backgrounds, creating wonderful fusions with exciting modes and rhythms. These collaborations will enrich Australian music in the same way that the music

of America, Cuba, and Brazil, for example, was enriched by the fusion of the music of various ethnic groups.

For this project it was feasible to use only six groups, but there were dozens under consideration, and I hope that the ones that missed out this time can still be given the opportunity to record their music in the future. It is music that deserves to be heard.

The groups that are featured on Routes of Rhythm are:

Bagdad or Bust (Middle Eastern, North African, Mediterranean fusion)

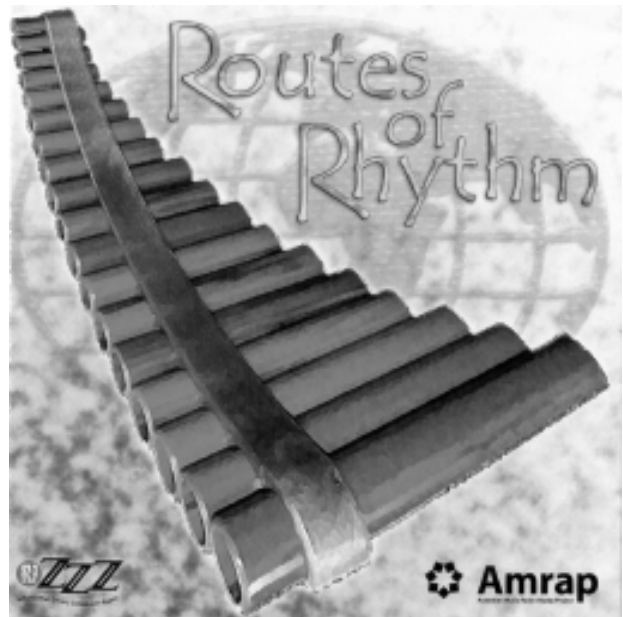
Anthea Sidiropoulos (Greek and English)

Vincent Gimenez & Alfirio Cristaldo (Paraguayan harp duo)

Guney & Bulent Bektas (Kurdish duo)

La Casbah (Moroccan fusion)

George Christian Calou & Sunset (Mauritian)



In our search for a suitable recording facility we were very fortunate to have the support of SBS, especially that of SBS manager Mike Zafiroopoulos, who not only gave us their multi-track recording studios free but also provided us with their recording engineer, George Papacotsias.

I now hope that broadcasters all over Australia that have received this CD "Routes of Rhythm" play the music, thus giving these new artists the exposure and recognition they deserve.

**Costas Tsicaderis**  
**3ZZZ**  
[www.3zzz.org.au](http://www.3zzz.org.au)

"the language of music is universal and communicates directly with the soul..."

# Local Macedonian Music



**Folk Hit is a 2CD compilation of Macedonian folk music performed on traditional instruments and was the inspiration of Jon and Betty Trenoski, volunteer broadcasters at 2NBC.**

They spent some four months working on this project including negotiating with the artists, 2NBC and AMRAP to ensure the success of this project. The recording was made "live" at the Croatian Club and then re-mastered in a recording studio.

Featured artists on this CD are mostly Australian born and came from all over Australia to perform in a Sydney Folk Music Festival. Jon and Betty were the organisers and promoters of the festival and their aim was to bring Macedonian folk music to the rest of the world.

Copies of the CDs were sent to Macedonia, where it is receiving airplay on free to air radio.

Jon and Betty have received much encouragement from the artists, the listening audience and from overseas, with the project receiving congratulatory letters from the Macedonian Minister for Immigration and the Minister for Culture, Arts and Education.

2NBC hopes that the positive response received to this initiative will flow through the community broadcasting sector and will encourage further works which expand our knowledge of music from around the world. The station is pleased to have been involved with such an interesting project from conception to completion. After all, isn't this part of what community broadcasting is about?

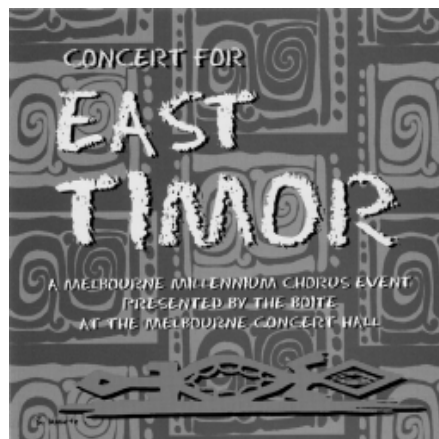
Jon and Betty are already looking toward their next project. This is to produce another CD, this time utilising the talents of songwriters who will contribute new material in the folk genre.

I would also like to thank Paul Mason [AMRAP] and Kitty [Troy Horse Studios] for their assistance without which we could have easily got lost in the fog of music industry jargon and procedures.

2NBC strongly encourages others to also avail themselves of the opportunities the AMRAP project offers.

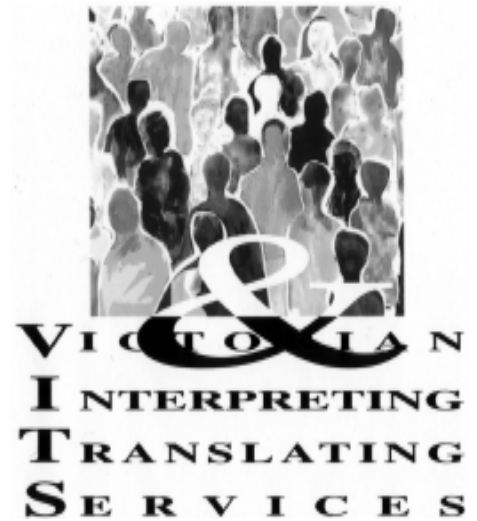
**Geoffrey Suranyi**  
**2NBC Manager**  
**radionbc@ozemail.com.au**

**The Boite is a Victorian based world music organisation that has produced a number of CDs. The Concert For East Timor was an AMRAP project and will be distributed shortly to your stations. You can visit the Boite at [www.boite.asn.net](http://www.boite.asn.net).**



# Working with Interpreters

The Victorian Interpreting and Translating Service (VITS) has developed, produced and funded a 'Working with Interpreters' CD under our Good Corporate Citizen Program.



As a State Business Corporation, VITS prides itself on its links with government and the multicultural community.

Our Good Corporate Citizen Program (GCCP) allows us to fund important projects pertaining to language services and access to interpreters. Without funding these invaluable projects would not be possible.

VITS has produced a number of publications under GCCP, such as 'We speak your language – A Guide to Cross-Cultural Communication' and a list of 'Countries and Languages Spoken' and the latest, a CD titled 'Working with Interpreters'.

The CD is an example of our strong social commitment to the Australian community and its culturally and linguistically diversity and was launched by the Minister Assisting the Premier on Multicultural Affairs, Hon. John Pandazopoulos at the National Ethnic and Multicultural Broadcasters Conference on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2001.

VITS has provided numerous cross-cultural training packages to private and government clients, on a regular basis, increasing the awareness of working with interpreters and communicating effectively with the multicultural community. As this cross-cultural training is targeted towards the professional community and government, the culturally and linguistically diverse receive only the end benefits.

The education message contained on the 'Working with Interpreters' CD has been recorded into twenty

languages and aims to readdress this imbalance of information on the use of interpreters. We hope that the CD will assist the culturally and linguistically diverse community in their dealings with professionals and government personnel and understanding their right to an interpreter.

We have recorded the CD in twenty languages, to be played during community education segments, on all ethnic radio stations throughout Victoria. Two copies of the CD have been sent to each station manager with a request that the CD's be accessible to all their ethnic broadcasters and volunteers.

Copies of the Working with Interpreters CD can be ordered by sending your request to [vits@vits.com.au](mailto:vits@vits.com.au).

We hope that the CD is both informative and beneficial and congratulate the National Ethnic and Multicultural Broadcasters Council on their excellent organisation of the National Ethnic Broadcasters Conference, of which VITS was proud to be the major sponsor.

**Senada Softic**  
**General Manager, VITS**  
[www.vits.com.au](http://www.vits.com.au)

# STATION NEWS

## 2001 Tony Manicaros Award

**The 2001 Tony Manicaros Award has been presented to Gavin Unsworth from Brisbane-based stations 4EB and 4ZZZ.**

The Award of \$1500 will allow Gavin to develop a low cost CODEC, a piece of equipment that allows high quality audio to be sent down a phone line. Till now CODECs have been high cost items and this can discourage stations from doing outside broadcasts at concerts, festivals and community events.

The Award is presented each year in honour of Tony Manicaros, who played a large part in the development of ethnic community broadcasting. Applications for the 2002 Award will be called for later in the year and will be available from the NEMBC website at [www.nembc.org.au](http://www.nembc.org.au).

## Ethnic TV Digital Training

**OPEN Channel, Channel 31 Melbourne and the National Ethnic and Multicultural Broadcasters Council have embarked on a training course aimed at bringing ethnic groups together.**

The course will follow in the steps of the first Digital Production Management course that was run in late 2001. This course produced a new look station promo for Channel 31 Melbourne, which has also been taken up in New South Wales by LINC TV Lismore, and Channel 31 Sydney.

With over 20 different ethnic production groups, Channel 31 Melbourne has the most diverse multicultural programming in community television across Australia. "One of the best things about this course is that it brings people from different groups and backgrounds together, so that the students learn from each other as

well as learning from the tutors," said Campbell Manderson, coordinator of the training course. "It's also great to have the National Ethnic and Multicultural Broadcasters Council onboard with this training course, and we are looking forward to developing a training curriculum that will benefit all our ethnic production groups.

SKA TV and RMITV, both founding members of Channel 31, will be supporting the training with access to digital cameras and editing facilities, as well as volunteer support for the group's projects.

Channel 31 and OPEN Channel were recently recognised for their work together when they won the national award for excellence in training at the Community Broadcasting Association of Australia national conference in Hobart last year.

You can visit Channel 31 at [www.channel31.org.au](http://www.channel31.org.au).

## New Manager at 3ZZZ

3ZZZ, Melbourne's full time ethnic broadcaster, has a new Station Manager, Maureen O'Keeffe. Maureen has a strong background in community radio, having worked as the Station Manager at the Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association [CAAMA] in Alice Springs for two years. Prior to that she worked at the ABC for a number of years.

Maureen first started in community radio when she joined community broadcaster 3YYR [now Pulse FM] in Geelong in 1988 as a volunteer and later served on the station's board of management. She helped develop the early curriculum for the Australian Ethnic Radio Training Project and worked in post apartheid South Africa setting up new community radio stations.

3ZZZ has just begun the development of a fourth studio, designed specifically for music recording and broadcasting, debates and live to air studio performance. Maureen joins new Admin Worker Sylvia Kranbeck.

You can visit 3ZZZ at [www.3zzz.org.au](http://www.3zzz.org.au).



# AROUND AUSTRALIA

## Award for END journalist

**Nicola Joseph, NEMBC Ethnic News Digest Journalist and Emerging Communities Worker, has won the 2001 Australian Arabic Women's Media Award.**

In addition to her involvement with the NEMBC, Nicola has been a long time broadcaster at Radio Skid Row in Sydney, as well as broadcasting at 2SER and 4ZZZ. She has delivered training at a number of radio stations in Australia and internationally, and has worked as an Executive Producer at the ABC.

In making the award, the Australian Arabic Communities Council noted Nicola's use of family history, throughout her writings and interviews, to dispel some of the widely held myths about migrants in this country.

The Award described Nicola as a woman who possesses an exceptional level of passion and commitment, and who has contributed to the different struggles of marginalised groups both in Australia and overseas.

The NEMBC congratulates Nicola on her award.

## George Sudull Honoured

**Mr. Zbigniew Jerzy Sudull (better known as George) has served the broadcasting community for the past twenty years.**

He was one of the founding members of the NEMBC and served in various capacities including President from 1987 to 1990.

George is well known in the ethnic broadcasting community and has for many years contributed to the promotion of ethnic broadcasting in



Australia. His long service in Radio 4EB (now 4EBFM) has in many ways helped to build up and maintain the station.

His NEMBC life membership is a well-deserved recognition of his contribution to the broadcasting sector. A very big thank you, George.

**Peter Ho  
4EBFM President**

## Oral History Series Stopping Traffic!

Feedback from the NEMBC's Migrant Women in the Workforce Oral History project has been very enthusiastic. 5UV in Adelaide report that when they played the program 'On The Buses' profiling two Maori women bus drivers, the station received a call from a particularly enthusiastic listener.

The listener was himself an Adelaide bus driver who had heard the program whilst driving the bus. He had to pull over to the side of the road to write the station's contact number so he could get a copy of the program. He said his wife was also a

bus driver and he wanted her to hear it as the program contained the most truthful comments he'd ever heard in public about bus driving!

Other programs in the series include The Great ACT Laundry Strike of 1987, In the Woollen Mills and The Italian Cake Shop.

Copies of the 10 programs on CD were sent to all community stations with ethnic broadcasting. If you'd like more information about the project please contact [nembc@nembc.org.au](mailto:nembc@nembc.org.au) or listen to excerpts on our web site at [www.nembc.org.au](http://www.nembc.org.au).

# What was Radio 4EB, now Radio 4EB-FM

**On 1 December, 2001 at 12.01 am, Radio 4EB commenced broadcasting at FM 98.1.**

It has not been done without hard work and dedication by staff, the board and volunteers as well as support from the communities that exist within the Greater Brisbane coverage area and financial support from the Jupiters Casino Community Benefit Fund. 4EB now shares a council leased transmitter site at Mt Coot-tha with four other community broadcasters and we look forward to a good relationship with fellow Brisbane Community

Broadcasters; sharing and increasing the benefits for all.

4EB has a long history with the first test broadcast of the Ethnic Broadcasting Association of Queensland (EBAQ) in 1977 and then 4EB received an 'S' class public broadcasting license, and on 1 December 1979, Radio 4EB commenced broadcasting fulltime.

Radio 4EB-FM has over 4500 members and facilitates over 50 language groups, providing them with good facilities to broadcast information, entertainment and education out to listeners.



Since December, a campaign has been underway to raise \$20,000 from donations to help cover costs associated with the transfer to FM. With the hard work of volunteers and staff and the support of the community I am sure we will achieve that goal.

**Peter Rohweder  
Station Manager**

## New Melbourne Stations

The ABA has allocated four new community broadcasting licenses for Melbourne. Out of the field of 17 aspirants, the successful broadcasters and their broad communities of interest were:

3KND – indigenous

JOY FM – gay & lesbian

SYN FM - students/youth

777 FM – Christian

The NEMBC congratulates the new broadcasters and looks forward to working with them in the future.

## Afrika Connexions

All stations with ethnic community broadcasting have been sent a copy of Afrika Connexions. The CD is a 60 minute English language documentary about the development of the African community in Sydney.

The African community is a growing part of Australia's multicultural community. The program looks at how the Sydney community has grown and developed, as well as the tension that exists between a Pan African ideology and individual country identities.

The program was produced by Paul Thusi from Radio Skid Row in

Sydney and was the winner of the 2001 Tony Manicaros Award.

The Tony Manicaros Award is an annual award open to stations, programming groups and individuals to fund a project of significance for ethnic community broadcasting.

Applications forms for the 2002 award will be available from [www.nembc.org.au](http://www.nembc.org.au) in May 2002.

If you'd like more information about the Award or the Afrika Connexions CD, email us at [nembc@nembc.org.au](mailto:nembc@nembc.org.au).





# Community Organises Against Racism

**Non-government organisations came together last year to co-ordinate their work in relation to the United Nations World Conference Against Racism.**

On 11<sup>th</sup> March this year over 40 of these organisations were represented at a day long consultation held in Sydney about action against racism following on from the world conference. The NGO Working Group has now adopted the name **National NGO Coalition Against Racism (NCAR).**

One of the group's immediate objectives is to develop State and Territory coalitions of NGOs against racism where these don't exist. Mobilising at the local level is critically important. Some of the action required, even on matters of national importance, needs to happen at the local level.

The consultation identified seven priority goals and began to develop plans of action in relation to each of them.

The seven priorities are:

To create a community which affirms human rights and diversity as an integral part of a cohesive and equal society.

To create deeper understanding and acceptance of various cultures.

To promote education for cross-cultural active listening with a view to changing attitudes and shifting power.

To promote awareness of 'whiteness' and white privilege in the context of racism and racial identity.

To challenge and educate the media and community about the impact of racial reporting

To achieve the cessation of the mandatory detention of asylum seekers.

Accepting one another as members of the one human family.

The Coalition is also developing a Community Action Kit Against Racism. The kit provides information about racism and a series of action sheets with concrete ways to take action against racism in Australia.

To get involved, contact Sandie Cornish [Tel 02 9956 5811 Email [sandie@acsjc.org.au](mailto:sandie@acsjc.org.au)].

**Sandie Cornish  
for the NCAR Steering Group**

## New Women's Committee

A new Women's Committee was elected at the 2001 NEMBC Conference.

Members are:

Blanca Llorente NSW

Judith Ventic NT

Badihe Mohebbi QLD

Brenda Degenhart SA

Karina Ceron TAS (Convenor)

Jiselle Hanna VIC

Diane Popovich WA



**In Tasmania, Hobart station 7THE FM has awarded Life Membership to two of their ethnic broadcasters for outstanding service to the station. Graziano Ceron [left] & Mahendra Pathik [right].**

# NEW Executive and EGAC Members

## **The 2001 NEMBC AGM elected a number of new people onto the NEMBC Executive and the Ethnic Grants Advisory Committee of the CBF.**

New Executive members are Peter Ho, Marisol Salinas and Ramkumar Konesparamoorthy.

Peter Ho is the President of Brisbane's full time ethnic broadcaster 4EBFM. Peter has been a Cantonese language broadcaster for 10 years and has been on the Board of 4EBFM since 1998.

Marisol Salinas is one of the producers of *Mujeres Latinamericanas*, a Spanish language Central American women's program on 3CR in Melbourne. She has been a broadcaster for the last seven years.

Ramkumar Konesparamoorthy is the President of Northern Territory Multilingual Broadcasters Council, the umbrella group for ethnic language broadcasters at Darwin station TOP FM. Ram has been a Tamil language broadcaster since 1990.

Retiring members of the Executive are Heinrich Stefanik, George Sudull, Patricia Karvelas and Upali Ranasinghe.

Paul Thusi was elected as the new member of the CBF's Ethnic Grants

Advisory Committee. EGAC meets twice each year to assess ethnic grant funding applications and to make policy recommendations to the CBF Board. Paul is both the Manager of Radio Skid Row in Sydney, as well as the presenter of the program *Afrika Connexions*. Paul replaces Alex Lutero on EGAC.

A full listing of the NEMBC Executive is on the back cover.



**Imagine having oral history stories in your language, locally recorded music, interviews with a visiting actor and written news from communities all over Australia, available at the push of a button in the studio...**

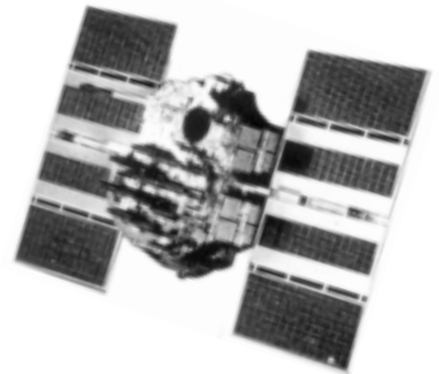
This is what the Digital Delivery Network [DDN] could offer you as a programmer. The DDN is a computer system that will make the community radio satellite service easier to use. It will make recording programs from the satellite simple and it can also keep a look out for the type of stories that you are interested in.

The satellite currently distributes programs made by community broadcasters to 150 community stations all over Australia. Ethnic community broadcasters haven't been big users of the satellite to date. Most broadcasters naturally are keen to preserve the local aspect of their program. It's also currently a lot of work to record a program and then pull out just the one interview/music track you are interested in.

The DDN will make it easier to do all this.



# The Satellite gets *closer*...



Although the “back room” part of the system is technically complex and very innovative, you can think of the DDN as basically a very smart alarm-clock/tape-recorder connected to the satellite receiver dish.

Your station will need to tell the system [via a special website] what types of programs, music and information are of interest to broadcasters.

For instance, you could nominate that you want to record any interviews in Polish, any Macedonian music, or any news about Indonesia, that is broadcast on the satellite. You could even get text stories like the Ethnic News Digest delivered onto the screen to read out.

Every time the computer hears one of these items on the satellite, it will turn on its recorder and record the segment. If the computer is accessible in the studio, then it will be possible to play this recording directly to air whenever you want.

The DDN will also make it easy to survey what satellite material people use and so help shape what material gets put on the satellite. Of

course, there will only be material available to record if a broadcaster [like you!] has given it to the satellite. That means you’ll need to separate out and send that special interview or music track to the satellite service in Sydney, as well as a short description of what it is. Stations should be able to help you with this.

The system is being tested and trialed currently. Stations have been invited to apply for the computer and the software needed to make the system work. Software and computers should start to appear at stations in the coming months.

The project is funded by the Community Broadcasting Foundation as a resource for all broadcasters

If you’re interested in learning more about the DDN, you can email David Sice [Project Coordinator] at [dsice@bigpond.com](mailto:dsice@bigpond.com).

## **I’M INTERESTED, BUT WHAT DO I DO?**

Discuss the project at your station. Check that your station applied for a DDN computer/software from the CBF

Talk to your station manager or coordinator about the types of material you are interested in recording. Remember that the satellite distributes material produced in Australia

Start thinking about whether material on your program might be of interest to language programmers in other states. Remember they won’t want your whole program, only specific parts of it like interviews or new local music.

Talk to your station about a system to collect these pieces from your program and other programs at the station.

# DIVERSE VOICES: NEW SKILLS

The 2001 Ethnic Broadcasters' Conference



**The 2001 ethnic broadcasters conference held in Melbourne was a great success with the biggest participation yet from broadcasters across Australia.**

The conference opened with an emotional and moving plenary session looking at Human Rights & Ethnic Broadcasting. This was a highly emotional session as a refugee on a temporary refugee permit spoke about her experiences in coming to Australia, her experiences in a detention camp and the difficulties she has faced since being released into the community. For many this was the first opportunity they'd had to hear of these experiences first hand.

Dr Sev Ozdowski's speech gave an overview of human rights issues in Australia. Sev had some very perceptive insights into the role and work of ethnic community broadcasters (His speech is reprinted in this edition of the Ethnic Broadcaster). Joumanah El Matrah, from the Islamic Women's Welfare

Council told of the vilification, abuse, threats and violence experienced by the Australian Arabic community and particularly by the women in that community.

Bryan Andy gave us an insight into Victoria's Yorta Yorta tribe struggle to have their native title claim recognised and Community Aid Abroad provided information about the plight of indigenous people around the world and how we might report on those issues.

The reception and concert on Friday night saw the launch of the NEMBC Oral History Radio Series, Migrant Women in the Workforce, the 3ZZZ CD Routes of Rhythm and book 'From 3ZZ to 3ZZZ – a short history of ethnic broadcasting'. The music at the concert was fantastic and demonstrated the depth of talent and creativity that exists in our communities.

The keynote address was delivered by author Arnold Zable, who gave a compelling and thought provoking insight into the treatment of refugees and the future for

multiculturalism in Australia. What struck me most about Arnold's speech was his belief in the power of telling stories. He is a wonderful storyteller himself and he demonstrated the power of people telling their stories on radio. People relate to the real experiences of others – it allows for understanding and empathy – and so builds the basis for a more informed and compassionate society.

The workshops offered at the conference were very popular and participants felt that they learnt a lot in these sessions. Some of the highlights included ABC broadcaster Peter Clarke talking about outside broadcasts, sessions on digital technology, increasing your audience, writing funding submissions, getting sponsors and reading and reviewing for radio.

A big thanks to all our sponsors – the National Australia Bank, Victorian Interpreting & Translating Service, 3ZZZ, Adult Migrant Education Services, Victorian Multicultural Commission, the Community Broadcasting Foundation and the Australian Tax Office. Their support is essential in being able to conduct the conference.

This year's conference will be in Adelaide – so see you there!



**Diverse Voices New Skills was the theme of Conference 2001 held in Melbourne in November. But whilst there was diversity in voices, there was near unanimity in praise when delegates were asked for feedback about the Conference.**

#### **WHO CAME?**

One hundred and eighty-five delegates attended the Conference in Melbourne, making it the biggest ever and 10% bigger than Conference 2000 in Sydney. In

#### **THE BIG SPEECH**

Melbourne writer Arnold Zable gave the Conference key note address on Refugees & Multiculturalism. Delivered in the lead up to the Federal election, his provocative talk looked at the role that ethnic broadcasters can play in developing a rational debate about refugees and multiculturalism. The popularity of his talk can be gauged by how long the session ran over time with questions and comments from the floor. Whilst some delegates were concerned about the political nature

#### **THOUGHTS**

*It was my pleasure to attend the Conference... and I congratulate all concerned for a really fantastic function. It was my first time at such a function and I gained a wealth of information which I have passed on to my fellow broadcasters....*

*I'm still coping with the follow up at my local station...*

*A lovely and well organised conference...*

*Wonderful participation by the broadcasters...*

*Keep up the good work!*

## *Conference 2001:* **Views from the Floor**

addition to delegates from stations, there were also representatives from 13 other organisations including the ABA, CBAA, CBF, SBS Radio and the Victorian Office of Multicultural Affairs. There were two "new" stations at the Conference: 2BLU [Katoomba/Blue Mountains, NSW] and 4CBL [Logan City, Qld]

#### **THE BIG PICTURE**

Plenary sessions on "big picture" issues like *Ethnic Broadcasting & Human Rights* and *The Future for Multilingualism* were very popular. In feedback forms, 80% of delegates described them as Good or Excellent.

#### **THUMBS UP FOR HANDS ON**

The workshop sessions with *Programming and Skills Development* were also very appreciated with over 90% of delegates rating these as excellent or good. Over 85% of delegates felt there was enough opportunity for them to participate in the Conference.

of the issues being debated, many feedback forms were glowing and variously described the talk as *inspirational... superb... best presentation ever heard...*

#### **AND DISLIKES...**

The most common problems identified were that sessions ran over time because of discussion and that delegates wanted to attend more than one workshop in each session.



**NEMBC Life member Mickey Hayward and Heinrich Stefanik up close and personal at the Conference.**

## **Diverse Voices CD**

A CD featuring highlights of the 2001 ethnic broadcasters conference

#### **THE FUTURE OF MULTILINGUALISM**

a montage from the speeches of Professors Helen Borland & Michael Singh (16 minutes)

#### **HUMAN RIGHTS**

Dr Sev Ozdowski, Human Rights (10 minutes)

Joumanah El Matrah, Vilification (8 minutes)

Experiences of an Asylum Seeker (15 minutes)

A copy of the CD has been sent to your station – ask about getting access – burn your own copy to use over the coming weeks or download it off our web site [[www.nembc.org.au](http://www.nembc.org.au)].



# Motions from the 2001 Conference & AGM

## EMERGING COMMUNITIES

It was recommended that:

the NEMBC identify the barriers that exist within community radio stations and the community in general, which discourage refugees and emerging communities from participating in community broadcasting.

the NEMBC encourage partnerships with other service providers who work with newly arrived migrants and refugees.

the NEMBC consider it a matter of urgency that ongoing funding be secured for the Australian Ethnic Radio Training Project.

**Action:** All of these recommendations are currently being acted on.

## YOUTH

"That the NEMBC Youth Committee and the NEMBC recommend that EGAC at their next meeting consider a motion to modify the funding guidelines for language specific youth programming grants to reflect the following":

that the language content should be part of an incremental process to acknowledge the language challenges some young people may face. This should take the form of:

for the first year, 25 percent of the spoken word content should be in a language other than English and in the second and subsequent years this non-English language content must

increase to 50 per cent of the spoken word content of the programme.

The guidelines for age determinates of 'youth' should reflect the UN definition of 'youth' (under 30).

"As a result of EGAC's decision to modify the NEMBC recommendation for language specific youth funding, without consultation with the NEMBC, it is recommended that EGAC develop appropriate consultative mechanisms to discuss with the NEMBC and associated committees, when a policy recommendation is modified. This process should be developed together by the NEMBC and EGAC in a timely manner."

**Action:** The new funding guidelines have been adopted by EGAC and the CBF. The issue of consultation has been raised in the context of the CBF strategic plan and very productive discussions with the chair of EGAC has taken place on this issue.

## WOMEN

It was recommended that:

in order to ensure that updated information relating to women's health issues is broadcast, station programmers should be advised when health information is arriving at the station and to allocate time slots for them to be broadcast.

in order to improve the quality of our broadcasting and ensure that



we are relaxed when we go to air that we incorporate the brief breathing exercises demonstrated during the women's workshop into the AERTP curriculum.

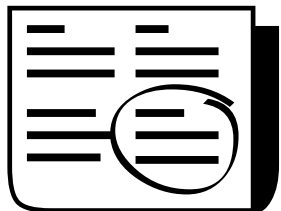
any amendments to legislation relevant to women's issues and all new community services for women, to be added to the NEMBC Women's home page.

**Action:** First recommendation is for stations to consider. The second recommendation has been referred to the AERTP Co-ordinator. The NEMBC web site has been designed to allow recommendation three to be easily put in place. Once notified the secretariat can add this information quickly.

## ETHNIC PROGRAMMING GUIDELINES

"That the NEMBC, in consultation with EGAC review the Ethnic Programming Grant Guidelines and Conditions to remove, on the basis of language, ethnicity or broadcast station, discriminatory barriers and outcomes."

**Action:** The NEMBC executive has agreed to establish a committee to look at these issues and report back to the members.



# Identity, Language & Broadcasting

Below is an edited extract from Professor Michael Singh's speech delivered at last year's conference dealing with the issues of identity, language and broadcasting. A copy of his speech in full is available from the NEMBC web site at [www.nembc.org.au](http://www.nembc.org.au).

Alfred Deakin, the founding Attorney General of a federated Australia, three times Prime Minister and among the most influential advocates of Federation proclaimed its corporate vision thus: "that we should be one people, and remain one people, without the admixture of other races" .

That the century of the Federation's failed social experiment to create a Whites-only Australia has now passed is cause for celebration. However, Anglo-fundamentalism, White Australia politics and the tensions associated with these legacies of colonial racisms are still with us.

## **IDENTITY, LANGUAGE AND BROADCASTING**

Australian identity is incorrectly seen as being inextricably bound up with the English language. English is mistakenly taken as a sign of national identity and identity conversion. Anglo-fundamentalists

see multilingualism as weakening their dominating power to dictate what it means to be 'Australian', and their promotion of policies of cultural and linguistic exclusionism.

Australian ethnic broadcasters have struggled long with efforts to reject vernacular broadcasting and the denigration of languages. In doing so they have demonstrated that it is not necessary to prescribe English-only broadcasting in order to create an egalitarian sense of Australianness that embraces Anglo-ethnics and all Other Australians.

To suggest that Australianness cannot survive the incorporation of bi and multilingualism implies a static conception of Australian history and denies social dynamics. The point is that Australian identity must change in response to its growing admixture of Other Australians through the creation of visible markers that express the new found desires of the admixture of Anglo-ethnics with all Other

Australians, Indigenous and immigrant alike.

## **CRITICAL LANGUAGE AWARENESS**

Australia's ethnic broadcasters are playing a significant role in developing their listeners' consciousness of the debates over the sustainability of linguistic diversity, sustaining egalitarian multilingualism; laying claim to and redefining constructions of Australianness.

"Australian ethnic broadcasters offer a view of languages, culture and identity as dynamic – as constantly adjusting to social pressures" (Ivaanic, 1990). This is a positive expression of the power of people to change the status and use of languages in this society. Multilingual broadcasting plays an important role in shaping the day-to-day practices of Australian multiculturalism through:

recognising and making explicit the power people have to influence





changes in language use and identity construction in Australia;

promoting a commitment to the sustainability of linguistic diversity within Australia and beyond, and

- encouraging a commitment to appropriating and remaking the Australian identity and Australian English(es).

### UNDERSTANDING LANGUAGE

Australian ethnic broadcasters perform an important function by talking with people about their understandings of how Australia's languages are shaped by social and historical forces. Instead of regarding monolingual fluency in English as everyone's ideal, they ask really useful questions such as: What are the social forces that value English monolingualism over bi- or multilingualism? How do we work to give value to, and gain value for Australia's bi- and multilingualism? How do power relations affect language use?

"There are concerns about the English language's colonisation of the space of other languages, knowledge and identities" (Crystal, 2000; Nettle and Romaine 2000). It is in this context that standardised Australian English can be regarded as a mask that hides the loss of many of Australia's Indigenous and immigrant languages.

So many of these languages have been forcibly suppressed despite the efforts of active citizens who have struggled for years to overturn

bans on the teaching of these languages. Now the project of globalising English is cause for concern as it threatens the sustainability of global linguistic diversity.

### WHAT LANGUAGE MEANS

Australian ethnic broadcasters talk to people about how they feel about learning and using standardised Australian English and about the political press for English-only monolingualism. Ethnic broadcasters also play an important role in publicly airing how people feel about the language/s they already use; about their multiple, trans-national identities.

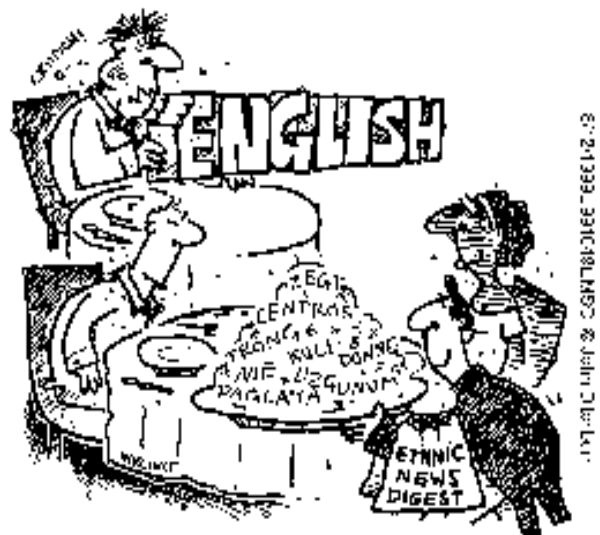
Further, broadcasters make their audiences aware of how language is used in ways that are demeaning, disrespectful, offensive, or exclusive. People's experiences of being labelled, patronised or excluded are discussed. Knowing what the differences are means that your listeners know about the

choices they have and can make informed choices.

It is important to engage people in an examination and development of their own language use on the basis of "person respecting" principles. This involves discussing anti-racist and anti-sexist issues regarding language use. This helps people to understand that there are differences between "person respecting" and offensive sexist and racist language. Finding out from people what they find offensive and what they prefer instead is a valuable public service.

### CHOOSING THE LANGUAGE WE USE

Australian ethnic broadcasters are instrumental in giving their listeners the self-assurance to make choices in how they use language and which language they use. This self-assurance is developed through talk back discussions that explore understandings of social situations,



Making news more digestible.



712/1959 9810411 M5C © John Chubbun

**Ethno News Digest sound check.**

knowing the options for language use, and knowing the consequences of using different languages.

These on-air discussions provide a measure of confidence building – or even assertiveness training – with respect to people’s rights regarding language use, and can be supported with reference to relevant laws and agencies relating to anti-discrimination, human rights and equal opportunities.

Once listeners understand that the rules of accuracy and appropriateness of language use are not forever fixed but subject to social influences they have a better sense of the choices they can make. They may want to choose between conforming to the social rules governing language use and thereby reproduce existing conventions as they are, or they may want to challenge them to help break new ground.

Sometimes bilingual Australians choose to conform to the convention of appearing to be an English-only monolingual speaker because opposing this practice is too demanding. Most bilingual Australians try very hard to use standardised Australian English in a job interview; typically they conform to this convention in the pursuit of their material interests.

An enhanced awareness of language can help people to conform to these conventions ‘with their eyes and ears wide open’, thereby recognising the compromises they are making, helping them to identify their feelings about this, and enabling them to maintain a positive, independent self-image.

Bilingual Australians need opportunities to discuss how they might weigh up the advantages and disadvantages of challenging the conventions associated with English-only politics. Ethnic

broadcasters help bilingual Australians understand that they too can contribute to changing English-only politics, and that if they do not, egalitarian multilingualism will have less chance of becoming a reality.

Bilingual Australians can contribute to normalising multilingualism as part of everyday practices. They may sometimes feel confident and safe enough to explain to Anglophones to pronounce their names properly, and thereafter ask them to do so. They may make a speech in their first language at a public gathering that includes many Anglophones – and not translate it. They may code switch during a public presentation without feeling guilty – and without apologising. Clearly ethnic broadcasters are dealing with important language issues.

**Professor Singh  
Professor of Language and  
Culture, RMIT University**

# Hip Hop

## *a way of life*

**'Rap' has been around for a very long time. Before people had writing they communicated in an oral culture. They did not have the technology for artificial memory – eg. books and what we now call recording. But they had ways of telling stories and passing them on.**

For example, in Greece, the epic poems of the Iliad and the Odyssey were well known. And guess what – these were called '**Rhapsodies**'. Poets of the ancient world 'rapped odes', which literally meant they wove or stitched together songs. They were the **MCs** of the ancient world.

'Rap' today is different from this oral heritage. It's been twenty years since Grandmaster Flash popularised scratching and Afrika Bambaataa formulated hip hop as a cool sound.

People continue to debate the value of rap & hip hop music. Is it positive? Is it negative? Is hip hop neutral? Or is it all of the above? Whatever we think of hip hop, the music is just today's version of rhapsody.

However, it's a mistake to think hip hop is a revival (or the survival) of ancient poetic traditions. Hip hop did not come from an oral or ancient culture. It has been the product of electronic culture. Hip hop is unique for showing that machines made for consuming music can be re-used for producing original music.

It's about collage – a cut'n'paste method for making music. And, turntables and samplers have

become musical instruments. They remove the difference between playing and listening to music. Anyone can make music now. You can mix in any style of music to do it – r&b, soul, funk and disco all serve as its foundation.

### **HIP HOP IN AUSTRALIA**

In Australia, hip hop is essentially a new phenomena. Given that Australians are fixated with American culture, a high percentage of hip hop music comes from US music charts and is seen as, mostly, African American music.

Indigenous and Ethnic hip hop made in this country is not commercially picked up. Hip hop music brings ethnic youth together because it remakes the rest of the world as outsiders. Anglos' don't pick it up, so they are the ones left out. Hip hop provides young people with the musical and lyrical language to:

- express the anger they feel,
- explain or excuse their behaviour,
- shock and scare those that make them feel bad and
- gives them a sense of belonging to a group.

The metaphors hip hop uses to portray reality are subtle – you have to be inside the music to get it. Ethnic kids in Australia claim to be closest to US rap because of their treatment at the hands of the Australian mainstream. They think they are the ones in Australian who have an authentic experience of

poverty, racism, crime, drug abuse, family neglect and being misunderstood by the world.

Some youth just get drawn to the racist stereotypes and violence of hip hop and do not understand the irony that is also part of this music. They get carried away with the sensational, excessive 'bad' talk as if that was what was intended.

But hip hop is not about being 'bad' but about saying explicitly how bad it is for young black youth. Hip hop is more than a music, it's a way of life, it's a way of dressing, a way of seeing and being in the world for youth.

The intensity of the words expressing this way of life is available to any youth – they can take what they are looking for as it talks of their own feelings and emotions even if their lives are practically different.

It is possible for Australian youth to understand the genre and know where it is coming from (ie. African American disadvantage, self destruction, racism ,etc) and still use it for their own life. Hip hop's rhymes allows any youth to talk about their trials and tribulations – it's a language for getting things off your chest – getting the truth out on the street.

There are many different styles of rap, even in Australia. Hip hop will become bigger and bigger in Australia and needs to be taken seriously by the music industry and those interested in the lives of young people in this country.

**Phillip Kalantzis-Cope**

# Human Rights & Racism

This is an edited version of the speech given to the 2001 National Ethnic Broadcasters conference by Dr Sev Ozdowski OAM, Australian Human Rights Commissioner with the Human Rights & Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC).



Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we are now meeting, the Kulin Nation. Recognition of the traditional owners reflects respect for the elders of this land. It also acknowledges that Australia as a nation is at least 40,000 years old.

## **MULTICULTURAL AUSTRALIA IS A REALITY**

Australian society is one of the most, if not the most, culturally diverse in the world. It has an enormous breadth of cultures, attitudes, beliefs and mores. Australia has a range of multicultural policies that were developed over the years, by all levels of government, in a response to our diversity. The National Agenda for a Multicultural Australia or the Access and Equity Strategy which mandates that government services should be available to everyone free of any form of discrimination irrespective of a person's country of birth, language, culture and religion – provide good examples of policy responses.

Cultural diversity is also protected by a range of human rights legislation. We have, both at the Federal and State levels, legislation prohibiting racial discrimination and racial vilification. Under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, ratified in 1975, Australia is obliged to ensure that all people here – including those in immigration detention – receive health care and education, provided in a manner which is culturally appropriate and which respects the inherent dignity of the human person.

## **CHALLENGES TO OUR CULTURALLY DIVERSE SOCIETY**

Australia has traditionally prided itself on being a multicultural and tolerant society. It has championed and cherished the notion of a "fair go" for everyone. However, events of the recent past – starting with Pauline Hanson's ill informed bigotry and more recently with emerging prejudice against Islamic communities – has given rise to

some national soul searching about what a fair go actually means.

The community reaction to the latest wave of asylum seekers has confirmed that unfortunately Australians are able to allow their prejudices and bigotry to rise to the surface. This is not a new phenomenon in our history.

In the past, for example, the first act of Federal Parliament established the White Australia Policy. The sentiments expressed against Jews in the 1930s and 40s are precisely those being expressed now about Muslim asylum seekers. At present Muslim asylum seekers are also being collectively labelled as terrorists, in spite of the fact that the vast majority are accepted as genuine refugees.

## **RACISM IS AN EVERYDAY EXPERIENCE**

Racism is like a cancer. For members of many ethnic communities, racism is not merely a broad, abstract philosophical construct, but is part of their



40 000 Melburnians rally in support of refugees. Photo courtesy of Refugee Action Collective [www.rac-vic.org](http://www.rac-vic.org).

everyday experience. A common theme that emerged from Race Commissioner Bill Jonas' community consultations, in the lead-up to the World Conference against Racism, was that racism is an experience many Australians know only too well.

Here are a few examples of racism related to dress:

Anyone, but particularly women, who wear culture-specific clothing such as a *hijab* or a sari, encounter racism on a daily basis.

Most women who choose to wear the *hijab* found that they were treated as new immigrants, regardless of how long they had been in Australia.

Women's traditional clothing often prevents them from getting jobs, as being "well dressed" is defined in terms of western standards of dress. Women in cultural dress are therefore virtually invisible in public life. It is extremely rare, for example, to see service providers wearing a *hijab* at your local Medicare centre.

In my recent consultations in Brisbane the young people of migrant families saw themselves as the subject of stereotyping by police who associate certain ethnic groups with crime.

### THE NEED TO TACKLE RACISM

Combating prejudice and racism needs to be given priority on the domestic front. Here in Australia, we must build a community in which all are entitled to freedom of religion and belief, and freedom from fear and want. We must promote a society that respects the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family. It is vital that we now heed the lessons of 50 years ago, and return to the principles of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

### ROLE OF ETHNIC COMMUNITY BROADCASTERS

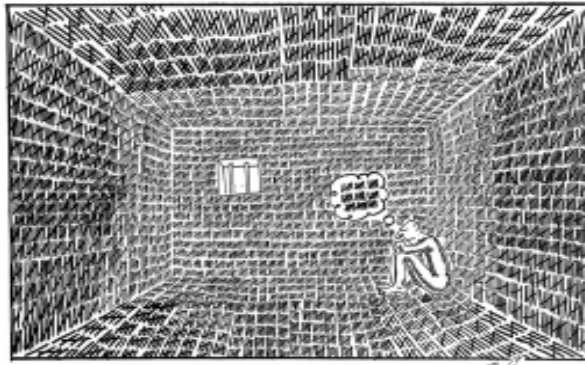
One of the root causes of racism is stereotyping based on misinformation and fear of difference. This places a particular responsibility on the Australian media. Ethnic community broadcasters have several important roles to play in addressing racism and promoting mutual understanding and a commitment to human rights by all Australians.

Firstly, ethnic community broadcasters need to provide intellectual leadership through the provision of information based on

facts and solid analysis. You should not be afraid if your analysis and facts differ from the information provided by mainstream broadcasters. In terms of combating prejudices and adding clarity into the public arena, it would be a major achievement if ethnic broadcasters could assist with the separation of the issue of border protection from that of asylum seekers.

Secondly, ethnic community broadcasting has a vital role to play in providing a forum for debate and discussion of the different forms and effects of racism. It is only through understanding the different *specific* causes and effects of racism that the Australian community can begin to address the systemic prejudices that have unfortunately taken hold at community and institutional levels. Share with others your individual experiences. Invite refugees to your studios to talk about why they left their countries, how they made the trip to Australia, and so on. Australians want to know the facts first hand.

Thirdly, ethnic community broadcasters play a vital role in community cultural development. According to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,



Cartoon by a former asylum seeker.

everyone has the right to freely participate in the cultural life of his or her community. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights states that everyone has the right to enjoy their own culture, to profess and practise their own religion, or to use their own language. Expressing one's culture, religion, language or beliefs are not privileges – they are in fact fundamental human rights, to which every person is entitled.

Ethnic community broadcasters play a vital role in extending the enjoyment of this right to all members of Australian society, particularly those who because of cultural or linguistic differences would otherwise be isolated from Australian society. This often includes new migrants, asylum seekers, the elderly, the unemployed and people who are less mobile due to physical disabilities.

Fourthly, ethnic community broadcasters play an important role in facilitating mutual understanding and tolerance between ethnically and culturally diverse communities and others in Australian society.

Ethnic community broadcasters enable communities to develop and embrace their own culture, while exposing the wider Australian community to aspects of that culture with which they would otherwise have been unfamiliar. This is what we call multiculturalism.

Similarly, ethnic community broadcasters facilitate the participation in Australian society by new migrants and those with poor English skills, by making community information, news, current events, debates and discussions accessible to ethnic communities in their own languages.

Finally, the recent World Conference Against Racism highlighted the importance of civil society in combating racism, and the ways and means by which it can do so. The Declaration and Program of Action produced at the Conference are available both on the website of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and HREOC. Perusal of these documents will be useful for ethnic community broadcasters.

#### **TRIBUTE TO VOLUNTEERISM**

Ethnic community broadcasters play a very important role in facilitating the participation of members of ethnically and culturally diverse communities in the cultural, social and political life of Australian society. In so doing, you make a great contribution to creating a more tolerant society based upon mutual understanding, in which the human rights of all are acknowledged and respected. This means you must continue to speak out against injustice, bigotry and racism.

This contribution would not be possible without the tireless and selfless efforts of the numerous volunteers who devote many hours to providing information, cultural and language services to their communities. They deserve special recognition for their contribution to the development of multicultural Australia and their effective promotion of the human rights of every member of Australian society.

**Human Rights & Equal  
Opportunity Commission**  
[www.humanrights.gov.au](http://www.humanrights.gov.au)

# CD Launch Migrant Women in the Workforce



**Below is a speech delivered by Dr Nouria Salehi in launching the NEMBC's migrant women's oral history series. Dr Salehi received an OAM in recognition of her work in assisting with the settlement of new migrants.**

Copies of the series have been sent to all community radio stations in Australia and are available from the NEMBC on [03] 9486 9549.

I am honoured to be here tonight to launch this oral history series on Migrant Women's contribution to the Australian workforce. The series clearly demonstrates the strength of these women, the difficulties that they have faced, their struggles and their hopes for their families in their new country – Australia.

They have met and overcome challenges – challenges shared by many migrant women including

learning a new language

learning about a new culture at the same time as they try to maintain their own culture and traditions

working hard to support and hold their families together

trying for recognition of their qualifications and to re-establish their professional careers.

Let me share some of my own experiences with you. When I came to Australia in 1981, I initially worked as a volunteer physicist for more than two years to re-establish my career. In addition I established a business – the Afghan Gallery Restaurant – to promote my culture and homeland and to assist my efforts to bring Afghan refugees to Australia. I am pleased to say that

the restaurant achieved both my aims in subtly educating the Australian community and it has supported many of my family members and friends in employment.

Like a typical migrant from a non-English Speaking Background, I had to work hard in my newfound home. Initially I worked as a physicist during the day and a chef during the evening. In my spare time I sought to inform migrant and other organisations about Afghanistan and the need for their support of my people. I joined many human rights organisations.

Afghanistan is in turmoil and still a war zone. Like me, Afghan women who live in Australia are very happy to live in a peaceful and democratic country. All of us cannot forget the place and the people we left behind. Afghan women, like many other women, have sought to escape wars for the sake of their children. They or members of their family have often experienced torture and the violation of their human rights.

Out of sheer desperation, they flee their own countries by whatever means available, be it by air or sea, legally or illegally. They all have the same aim – to introduce peace and tranquillity into their family life and to offer them a secure future.

However settlement in a new land is often fraught with difficulty. It takes some time to settle as homesickness can last for many years, as does getting used to a different culture.

The women in the CD in my eyes are heroes. Their families and children should be very proud of them, I certainly am.

# The Ethnic Broadcaster

## Ethnic Training Grants

Applications close 17<sup>th</sup> May

For information and applications: [www.cbf.com.au](http://www.cbf.com.au)

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We welcome contributions from members and other interested parties. Advertisements are also welcome. Please contact the office for rates.

The views expressed in The Ethnic Broadcaster are not necessarily the views of the NEMBC.

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