

South Australian Multicultural & Ethnic Affairs Commission

Ref. No: MSA 88/04

12 April 2006

The Secretary House Standing Committee on Communications, Information, Technology and the Arts Parliament House CANBERRA ACT 2600

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Submission No	119

Dear Sir

## **Inquiry into Community Broadcasting**

On behalf of the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission, I write in support of the National Ethnic and Multicultural Broadcasters Council's submission in relation to the Inquiry into Community Broadcasting.

Over many years, ethnic radio stations have played an invaluable role in providing communities with information on government initiatives and services, in addition to culturally appropriate entertainment. For the elderly, in particular, ethnic radio stations maintain their links with the outside world, thus reducing their feelings of isolation. For people in regional areas too, who do not have access to the same level of services that are available in metropolitan areas, local ethnic radio stations play a very important role in their lives.

Ethnic broadcasting has thrived mainly because of the dedication and commitment of legions of volunteers, who are themselves ageing. To be a truly multicultural society we must cater to the needs of all our citizens and there is a need to ensure that the invaluable service that ethnic radio stations provide to our culturally and linguistically diverse communities does not become a thing of the past.

Yours sincerely

Hieu Van Le Chairman, SAMEAC

Multicultural SA 24 Flinders Street Adelaide South Australia 5000

DX 56206 Victoria Square Telephone: 61 8 8226 1944 Facsimile: 61 8 8226 1955 Toll Free: 1800 063 535

Email: multiculturalsa@saugov.sa.gov.au Website: www.multicultural.sa.gov.au

Interpreting and Translating Centre Telephone: 61 8 8226 1990 Facsimile: 61 8 8226 1992 Email: itc@saugov.sa.gov.au Website: translate.sa.gov.au

