



Joint Standing Committee on Migration

Chair: Ms Vamvakinou MP

Deputy Chair: Mrs Louise Markus MP

SBS and Settlement Council to address Migration Committee

SBS acting managing director Bruce Meagher will discuss multiculturalism and ethnic broadcasting at a public hearing of the Parliament's Migration Committee in Sydney on Friday, 17 June.

Ikbal Patel and Heba Ibrahim will represent the Australian Federation of Islamic Council at the same hearing. The Australian Human Rights Commission and the Settlement Council of Australia will also be present.

Committee chair Maria Vamvakinou said Australia has experimented with ethnic broadcasting since the early seventies.

"The creation of SBS in 1978 is one of Australia's great achievements. SBS reflects Australia's multicultural society and promote an inclusive society through its multilingual and multicultural radio and television services," Ms Vamvakinou said.

The committee will hear from Ricci Bartel from the Settlement Council of Australia, which is a peak body representing hundreds of migrant organisations.

"The Race Discrimination Team from the Australian Human Rights Commission will also give evidence on trends in race discrimination," she said.

"Both these organisations play an important role in the integration of migrants into Australia society and promoting social cohesion."

The hearing will commence at 9.30 am in the Northcott Room, Level 5, Sydney Masonic Conference Centre, 66 Goulburn Street, Sydney and will be audio webcast.

Further information about the inquiry can be obtained from the committee's website www.aph.gov.au/mig or from the secretariat on (02) 6277 4560.

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Media comment: Committee Chair Ms Maria Vamvakinou (03) 9309 3655/0417 541 465 (Basem Abdo)

Background: Inquiry Secretary (02) 6277 2300