Multicultural SA

South Australian Multicultural & Ethnic Affairs Commission

Ref. No: MSA 88/04

**Government
of South Australia**

12 April 2006

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

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