



ETHNIC COMMUNITIES' COUNCIL

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MEDIA COMMITTEE

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PRESS RELEASE - for immediate release

APPOINTMENTS TO SPECIAL BROADCASTING SERVICE BOARD

The Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria (ECC) over the last three years has been actively involved in pressing the need for involvement of ethnic communities in decision-making processes in Australia.

The ECC has rejected any tokenism handed to ethnic communities by the Government in the form of appointments to advisory bodies of persons with ethnic names who have no involvement with ethnic communities. If ethnic communities are to be part of the total Australian community, then it is imperative that they become part of the decision-making processes.

In the area of ethnic broadcasting it has generally been the policy of the Government to appoint persons with an ethnic background but with no commitment or understanding of ethnic communities' needs to positions which require both a thorough understanding of those needs and an active participation in ethnic affairs.

The old Board of the Special Broadcasting Service (SBS) has been criticised by the Ethnic Television Review Panel (ETRP) as being ineffective, inefficient, and insensitive to ethnic community needs. Following the report of the ETRP, the Government committed itself to the establishment of the Independent Multicultural Broadcasting Corporation (IMBC). Unfortunately, because of difficulties in the Senate in August 1980, the IMBC concept was shelved, although an implementation committee was appointed for its establishment.

The Government undertook to press on with the principles of the IMBC even though it had to use the present structure of the SBS. It further

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