

FECCA gives full support to SBS

The Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) today expressed its full support for SBS, following the announcement of an inquiry into its structure and operations.

The Chairperson of FECCA, Ms Mary Patetsos, said that SBS television, radio and online broadcasting continue to embody a modern Multicultural Australia.

"These SBS services reflect a diverse and enriched Australia," Ms Patetsos said.

She said that the announcement today of the Federal Government's so-called 'competitive neutrality' inquiry should not be used as an opportunity for commercial broadcasters to attack SBS's quality programming.

"Commercial broadcasters provide quality media to market segments. Equally, a broadcaster like SBS targets markets that otherwise miss out."

"The news, information, entertainment choice and language options available on SBS are vastly different from those offered by commercial broadcasters.

"And this is the way it should be. SBS provides an essential service to millions of Australians as well as everyone across the nation who seeks high-quality news and entertainment.

"SBS provides a huge public benefit to Australian society at a comparatively small cost to the taxpayer, reaching 13 million people every month on its TV channels," Ms Patetsos said.

She said that SBS's in-language programs were increasingly valuable in aiding migrant participation in Australian life, with about 1.5 million podcast downloads of SBS in-language programs every month.

"We believe that our political leaders should ensure the continuation of SBS, which is a vigorous and visible embodiment of the ongoing success of Australia's great multicultural society."

FECCA is the national peak body representing Australians from CALD backgrounds. Our role is to advocate and promote issues on behalf of our constituency to government, business and the broader community.

Contact: 0424 910617/ emma@fecca.org.au