

4



PRIME MINISTER

JOINT STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P.J. KEATING, MP, AND MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS, SENATOR BOB COLLINS.

SBS RADIO NETWORK TO GO NATIONAL

The Federal Government will establish a national SBS radio network to meet the increasing needs of ethnic communities around Australia.

Federal Cabinet this week approved the establishment of the service.

The new service will provide Sydney and Melbourne with a second SBS radio outlet to complement the 2EA and 3EA stations.

It will provide ethnic communities in Adelaide, Perth, Brisbane, Darwin, Hobart, and Canberra with their first full SBS radio service.

The network will begin broadcasting in Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth Brisbane and Darwin from December, 1993.

Broadcasting in Sydney, Canberra and Hobart would begin from July, 1994.

There is currently insufficient air time available on 2EA and 3EA and volunteer-based public radio stations which now offer multi-lingual programs to fully satisfy the programming demands of all ethnic communities in Sydney and Melbourne.

The new services, which will broadcast on the FM band in all cities except Melbourne, will help meet the needs of ethnic communities for programs in their own languages.

SBS will develop programming schedules in consultation with ethnic communities and stakeholders groups prior to taking decisions on program content, format and schedules.

This assessment will be undertaken with the Community Advisory Committee which is to be established to advise the SBS Board.

The decision to establish the national service is a firm indication of the Federal Government's ongoing commitment to SBS and community broadcasting in general.

Canberra.
December 3, 1992.

Media Inquiries:

Mr Keating's office: Greg Turnbull 06-2777744
Senator Collins office: Brian Johnstone 06-2777200