



## RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING AWARENESS WEEK

Bankstown MP Tony Stewart says local Italian and Greek communities will come together this Wednesday in recognition of 2010 Responsible Gambling Awareness Week (May 17 – 22).

“NSW Government-funded Gambling Help counsellors from the Greek Welfare Centre and Co.As.It Italian Association are running a special cross-cultural day on May 19, 1 – 4 pm, at the Yagoona Senior Citizens Centre,” said Mr Stewart.

“The event will feature popular activities such as bocce and backgammon and demonstrate that you don’t need to gamble to have fun.

“The NSW Government is serious about helping problem gamblers and has provided a total of \$180,000 this financial year to the Greek Welfare Centre and Co.As.It Italian Association for counselling services.”

Mr Stewart said the focus of Responsible Gambling Awareness Week this year is on family and friends affected by problem gambling.

“Problem gambling can have a devastating impact on family and friends,” he said. “Recent research has shown that loved ones tend to underestimate the extent of the problem, as the gambler will frequently keep their full losses secret.

“By boosting public awareness of the issues around problem gambling, we hope to help more people get the support they need.”

The NSW Government, through the Responsible Gambling Fund, provides a range of free support and self-help services that are available to affected friends and family members as well as problem gamblers.

These include:

Phone counselling on 1800 858 858 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Online counselling through live messaging or email, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Face to face counselling services throughout NSW. These include services in Arabic, Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Greek and Italian. Counselling in other languages can also be provided through the Multicultural Problem Gambling Service.

Self-help tools and materials through [www.gamblinghelp.nsw.gov.au](http://www.gamblinghelp.nsw.gov.au).

“I urge anyone who may be struggling with gambling problems to seek help today,” said Mr Stewart.

**Tony Stewart BA, Dip.Ed, MP  
MEMBER FOR BANKSTOWN  
Parliamentary Secretary for Sport & Recreation**

# Women Raising Our Voices Forum

Minister for the Status of Women, Tanya Plibersek, opened the ‘Women Raising Our Voices’ National Forum at Sydney University.

The National Forum is a key part of the Raising the Voice of Migrant Women Workers in Precarious Employment project, which received \$100,000 under the Government’s Women’s Leadership and Development Program Grants.

The forum brought together nearly 200 women, mainly from Chinese and Vietnamese backgrounds, to have their say on the issues they face in the workplace, at home and in the community.

The project is being run by the Network of Immigrant and Refugee Women of Australia (NIRWA) in partnership with Asian Women at

Work.

Immigrant and refugee women can face barriers to participating in the workforce and wider community, such as language, culture, and in some cases, prejudice.

The project is supporting migrant women workers’ to be effective community advocates.

NIRWA is the lead agency for the Australian Immigrant and Refugee Women’s

Alliance (AIRWA) – one of the six National Women’s Alliances that share in \$3.6 million from the Australian Government as announced in March this year.

The alliances will play a key role in ensuring that women are strong and effective advocates that engage the

broader community and influence government.

Women are often a strong core of the community, but they continue to be under represented in decision making and have fewer opportunities to have their own say on issues that affect them.

As the voice for immigrant and refugee women, AIRWA provides a vehicle to deliver to Government the ongoing concerns of women, such as those being reached through this forum.

More information on the Alliances can be found at

[www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/women](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/women).

**TANYA PLIBERSEK MP**  
Minister for Housing

Minister for the Status of Women

## NATIONAL ETHNIC AND MULTICULTURAL BROADCASTERS' COUNCIL

# Silencing the Voices of Multicultural Communities

Despite a strong push from the community radio sector’s lobby campaign, the 2010/2011 Federal Budget leaves ethnic and multicultural community radio stations with no additional funding support for the core functions of program-making. The Budget has failed to support a sector which provides a voice for multicultural communities across Australia. The specific need for culturally sensitive training for multicultural and multilingual broadcasters has also been ignored.

**A**part from a small increase through partial indexation, funding for core functions has



remained static for the last 12 years. This static funding does not match the growing need for multicultural programs. There are presently 130 community radio stations across Australia broadcasting programs in languages other than English. Commitments given in 2007 to address this injustice have not been carried through.

The National Ethnic and Multicultural Broadcasters’ Council (NEMBC) would like to thank those radio stations and its member broadcasters that have worked to support the campaign, particularly through the launches already held in Canberra

and Melbourne and planned in Brisbane. We received many supportive letters from members of parliament, reiterating the case for ethnic community broadcasting.

Multilingual and other community broadcasters have every right to be disappointed with the Budget, and the Federal Government should be made aware of this. The sector’s claim for increased funding was modest, affordable and best value for money in these difficult times.

Ethnic and multilingual community radio must be recognised for its role in engaging thousands of volunteers, developing transferable skills for the local community and increasing social cohesion – all of which are vital to nation-building and stimulating local economies. Ethnic community broadcasting provides a national vehicle to breakdown racial stereotypes and can be used as an educational tool to combat racism.

Ethnic and multicultural broadcasters link both new migrants and established communities with each other, their cultures, and the nation, as well as providing information about government services and events.

The NEMBC will work even harder with its members, listeners and their communities to step up and maintain the lobby campaign right up to the federal election and secure commitments from all political parties. The NEMBC’s comprehensive lobby brochure will be used as a basis for the ongoing campaign and to assist members make their case to local members and candidates. The detailed brochure is available from the NEMBC’s website, [www.nembc.org.au](http://www.nembc.org.au).

## ETIHAD SIGNS CODESHARE DEAL WITH OLYMPIC AIR

Etihad Airways customers around the world will soon be able to fly to two of Greece’s leading holiday destinations as well as Romania and Bulgaria for the first time, following the signing of a new codeshare agreement with Olympic Air. The new deal, which comes into effect on Tuesday May 18, will also give air travellers in Greece greater and easier access to the Abu Dhabi-based airline’s network of 61 destinations. Under the deal, Etihad will place its two-letter ‘EY’ code on services operated by Olympic Air between Athens and Rhodes and Thessaloniki in Greece, the Romanian capital Bucharest, and capital of Bulgaria, Sofia. In turn, Olympic Air will place its ‘OA’ code on Etihad’s flights between Athens and Abu Dhabi and in due time on flights to Johannesburg, Cape Town, Sydney and Melbourne (pending government approval). James Hogan, Etihad Airways’ Chief Executive Officer, said: “Etihad continues to expand its codeshare strategy across the world. These codeshare agreements are a key element of our goal to expand into new markets, in a measured way. “We look forward to strengthening the Etihad customer base in Greece by including the Olympic Air code on our flights from Athens to Abu Dhabi, which have been performing strongly.” Etihad commenced services between Abu Dhabi and Athens in June 2009 operating three flights per week, which was increased to daily from January 2010. The flights were launched at the same time as Etihad began flights to Larnaca in Cyprus.