



ARABIC BROADCASTING SERVICES



The Hon. Philip Ruddock, the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, officially opened Sydney's newest radio station on Friday 3 March 2000. The opening function to mark the birth of Arabic Broadcasting Service was held at the Lidcombe Catholic Club and was well attended by some 200 people from all walks of life.

Here are excerpts of the Minister's address.

I am delighted to be here with Heather to share in the opening of Arabic Broadcasting Service. I do thank the Board for its invitation and wish the venture well. I do know that it is a fairly competitive market place and I know that amongst the Arabic-speaking people, you have supported many newspapers over a certain period of time. I certainly know there is a great opportunity for diversity of opinion and view. I do know that in the context of our multicultural society, we have a very significant and growing population who speak and share the Arabic language.

My recollection is that something in the order of 177,000 people were of Arabic origin in 1996 and I think that number would have gone up significantly.

I think there is a tremendous opportunity for communication and all of the ethnic media have to play an important role in providing links between Australia and the countries of origins of so many of our multicultural society.

There are many people who are not necessarily able to read their first language. For many it is only spoken so you do need a medium like radio if you are going to bring to people effective linkages with the world.

I as an Australian born follow closely the overseas news in relation to all parts of the world, and yet I am sure if I'd

Minister opens Arabic Broadcasting Service



HON. MR. PHILIP RUDDOCK DELIVERS HIS KEYNOTE SPEECH

lived elsewhere, I would have very special affinity and would want to obtain information on my home country.

In terms of helping to minimise the sense of loss that some people do experience when they move from one country to another, I think you will have a special place. You will have the capacity to assist in this by providing important settlement information.

I have no doubt that the great diversity of professional backgrounds of the shareholders and the management team of Arabic Broadcasting Service will give it the great potential to succeed.

It does give me a great deal of pleasure tonight ladies and gentlemen, to say that I wish the Arabic Broadcasting Service every success in the future. I am sure that

you wish them well in finding the sponsorship that will enable it to work effectively and successfully.

It is with great pleasure that I take this opportunity, in declaring open the Australian Arabic Broadcasting Service.



(L-R) Hon. Philip Ruddock, Heather Ruddock, Najah Kerbaj, Safwat Arfan-Sayed cutting the celebratory cake to mark the official opening of ABS Radio. ABS Radio President Karim Kisrwni looks on.

Arabic Broadcasting Service

Hello Sydney! Welcome to ABS Radio.....Australia's premier Arabic Radio Station.

Arabic Broadcasting Service broadcasts on the VHF band, however you can also listen in on

93.3FM on your radio at home or even in your car by using the special converter available from us.

Phone us today for your converter.

Phone (02) 9749 2050

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ABS Radio can now be heard live on the World Wide Web. Visit our home page today on www.absradio.com.au.

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