

NEMBC ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026

Connected Communities, Sustainable Futures

Friday 22 May – Saturday 23 May

Brisbane

The NEMBC Conference 2026 is a gathering for multicultural broadcasters to connect, reflect, and plan for the future of community media. Across two days, participants will explore how to strengthen trust and belonging within diverse communities, create more inclusive and engaging programming, and build the skills and strategies needed for sustainability and audience growth. The conference fosters collaboration, learning, and inspiration, leaving broadcasters equipped with practical ideas, sector insights, and new connections to enhance their work and impact in multicultural media.

FRIDAY 22 MAY		
Community Connection Day		
Designed for members seeking deeper engagement, peer exchange and identity-focused discussions		
10:00am onwards	Registration opens	
	Radio 4EB Open House If arriving early, feel free to drop by radio 4EB and connect with local broadcasters.	
10:40am-11:00am	Morning Tea	
11:00am-12:30pm <i>(community conversations – participants can join small-group discussions exploring key issues in multicultural broadcasting)</i>	Women’s Networking Session Speakers: Jayanti Gupta, 2XX FM; Joyce Yang 1CMS; Cora Fuentes-Mahnic Phoenix FM; Women’s Committee representatives	<i>Hosted by the NEMBC Women’s Committee</i>
	Youth Voices & Emerging Broadcasters Hear from youth broadcasters and explore how to engage young audiences and support emerging broadcasters. Open to anyone interested in including youth perspectives in their programming.	<i>Facilitated by Chad Phillips, NEMBC</i>
	First Nations Networking A casual catch-up to discuss First Nations inclusion in multicultural broadcasting.	
12:30pm-1:15pm	Lunch	Networking lunch

1:15pm-2:15pm	Building Trust and Belonging Through Ethnic Community Media Understand how media can build trust and a sense of belonging for diverse communities, with practical strategies for broadcasters.	<i>Anthea Hancocks & John Van Kooy-Scanlon Foundation Research Institute</i>
2:15pm-3:30pm	Finding and Applying for Grants Learn how to find and apply for funding to support your station or programs.	<i>CBF</i>
	Finding Sponsors for Your Program or Station Practical tips for attracting sponsors and funding to grow your station and programs.	<i>Spots & Spaces</i>
	Technology for Better Broadcasting Explore tools and technologies that can improve your broadcasts and help you reach more listeners.	<i>Technorama</i>
3:30pm-3:50pm	Afternoon Tea	
4:00-5:30pm	NEMBC Annual General Meeting Election of Directors	<i>NEMBC Board / General Manager</i>
7:00pm-late	Evening event hosted by 4EB Social event at Radio 4EB studios.	<i>Radio 4EB</i>
SATURDAY 23 MAY Official Conference Day – Strategy, Sustainability & Sector Future		
9:00am-9:30am	Formal Opening Plenary Welcome and overview, reflecting on Friday’s conversations, introduce new Board and President, introduce Saturday’s focus on the future of the sector.	<i>President / GM</i>
9:30am-10:15am	Beyond Broadcasting: Communicating Value to Wider Communities Research-driven insights into the benefits community radio brings to communities and encouraging broadcasters to think more broadly about their work and how they can communicate that value to those outside the sector.	<i>Bridget Backhaus – Griffith University</i>
10:15am-11:00am	Connecting Radio & Television Practical tips for cross-platform collaboration to reach wider audiences.	<i>Shane Dunlop – CTV+</i>
11:00am-11:20am	Morning Tea	
11:20am-12:00pm	Innovation, AI and Cultural Change	<i>ABC – Laura Gartry</i>

12:00pm-1:00pm	Communicating Across Cultures: Building Self-Awareness and Breaking Down Silos in Multicultural Broadcasting	<i>Marcela Lapertosa – Value Learning</i>
1:00pm-1:45pm	Lunch	Networking session
1:45pm-2:30pm	Growing your Audience Learn strategies to attract and engage listeners and grow the reach of your programs.	<i>Deborah Andersson - SBS</i>
2:30pm-3:15pm	Her Quiet Strength Jimmy takes you through his journey setting up a community storytelling project, centering on migrant women in regional Victoria. Explore themes of belonging, isolation, resilience and cultural adjustment.	<i>Jimmy Li – One FM 98.5 Shepparton</i>
3:15pm-3:30pm	Conference Closing Reflect on key insights, share takeaways, and look ahead to next steps for the sector.	GM/President
3:30pm-4:00pm	Afternoon Tea & Networking	
4:00pm-4:45pm	Optional Workshop – practical application of this afternoon’s session with Value Learning Interactive Strategies for Cross-Cultural Collaboration and Breaking Down Broadcasting Silos	<i>Marcela Lapertosa – Value Learning</i>
	FREE TIME	
Check in from 6:30pm 7:00pm start	Gala Dinner & Awards Night An evening of celebration, networking, and recognition of outstanding contributions to ethnic and multicultural broadcasting.	