



Media Alert

Monday 15 September 2008

CHASER JOINS SPECTRUM'S YOUTH WAR ON MEDIA RACIAL MADNESS

Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre (SMRC) facilitated Ethnic Youth Council (EYC) will host on **2 October 2008** a **Media Madness** forum in Northcote to address racial vilification in the media and its impact on the community, particularly on young people. Guests will include Julian Morrow (*Chaser's War on Everything*), Santo Cilaurò (Working Dog Production) and Nazeem Hussein & Amer Rahman (*Salam Café/Fear of Brown Planet*).

The Media Madness forum wants to increase awareness of the impact of racial vilification on youth and to empower and encourage marginalised young people to have a greater voice in the media on an ongoing basis. But it is also about getting together, linking with professionals and tearing down barriers between young people and the media.

“This forum is long overdue. Some members of the community, particularly youth, feel isolated because of racially vilifying media reports. This kind of media has contributed to social tension and systematic discrimination,” says **Ms Hala Abdelnour**, SMRC EYC Project Coordinator. “On the other hand, we can’t deny that the role of the media is reporting the news, so we have to work together to find a happy medium,” explains Ms Abdelnour.

The program includes visual presentations, a panel, a debate and the opportunity for participants to contribute to table discussions on subjects including:

- Have journalists a moral duty of saving humankind? The role and influence of reporting;
- From white bread *Home and Away* to *Salam Café*: is television becoming less colour blind?
- “*But this is not vilification! They are really like that!*” when stereotypes become racial vilification.

The Media Madness forum is a youth-led initiative funded by the Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC) and coordinated in partnership by the (EYC) and the Multicultural Multi-faith Youth Network (MMYN). The EYC is a group consisting of young people aged 15 to 25 years who are passionate about becoming leaders in their communities. Similarly, the MMYN is a group established by the Victorian Government to bring young leaders from various cultural and faith backgrounds together to discuss issues faced by young Australians.

The youth Media Madness forum is a free event but registration is essential. To register, call Hala Abdelnour on 0400 918 363 or email media_forum@hotmail.com

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY:

A photo opportunity of Nazeem Hussein with EYC members can be arranged.

EVENT DETAILS:

EVENT: Ethnic Youth Council Forum on Media Madness: impact and experience

DATE & TIME: Thursday 2 October 2008, 10.00am - 4.30pm

VENUE: Northcote Town Hall (rooftop) 189 High St, Northcote

Media Contact: Cristina Marras 0429 707 547

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