



## SENATOR KATE LUNDY

SENATOR FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Gloria Ross  
President  
Radyo Filipino Canberra  
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Dear Ms Ross,

I would like to express my thanks to you and to Radyo Filipino Canberra for the warm welcome that you and your team extended to me over the weekend when I came in to see you. It is such a pleasure to meet with members of my local community who are so passionate about the work they undertake to bind and strengthen their own communities. I also wanted to take this opportunity to provide a letter of support to you that you can share with your members.

As Minister for Multicultural Affairs I am proud to say that we have such a vibrant multicultural community here in Canberra covering many different nationalities and backgrounds – that's the beauty of Canberra and why we love living here so much.

In my role as Minister, I have been working on the Gillard Labor Government's multicultural policy '*The People of Australia*', which was released in August 2011. From that policy has come a range of great initiatives that all work towards strengthening our nation's multicultural credentials – ensuring that we are all living in a harmonious society and all reaching our full potential, regardless of our backgrounds.

This month, I announced an additional \$15 million investment in new measures to support and empower Australia's vibrant and diverse multicultural communities – including the Filipino community. This \$15 million package includes funding to improve connections to support services, funding for infrastructure and capital works, and increased resources for language translation.

As we discussed in my interview, sport is an incredibly powerful unifier that brings together people from diverse backgrounds. It often acts as the glue which binds communities and individuals together regardless of language, religion or background and the *Multicultural Youth Sports Partnership Program* is a key part of our People of Australia policy. The 2013/14 round of this program is currently open for grants between \$5,000 and \$50,000. It's open to organisations which help youth from multicultural communities to participate in sport within their local communities. More information about this program can be found at [www.ausport.gov.au](http://www.ausport.gov.au).

I know this year is a very important year for the Filipino community in Australia and in Canberra, as it marks the 115th Anniversary of the declaration of Philippine independence, so I would like to wish you all the very best for the celebrations planned to commemorate this milestone.

Canberra is lucky to have such a wonderfully active Filipino community, who obviously possess such a high level of skills, expertise and passion. I would like to extend my support to your organisation and wish Radyo Filipino Canberra all the very best for a long and prosperous future.

Yours sincerely



**Kate Lundy**

30 April 2013