

RADIO 2EA

Dutch Language Programme

The Dutch language programme initially appeared as a pilot programme in June 1976. The Department of Post and Telecommunications, being under much pressure from the ethnic groups in Sydney (and Melbourne), took responsibility for the technical broadcast facilities. The Dutch were about the seventh group on air. They had to overcome some resistance, because it had been accepted that they were completely assimilated in the general community. It was also because of the radio broadcasts that the realisation grew that assimilation is impossible and that many need help to integrate.

Volunteers produced the early programmes, often at their own expense. They built up a large listening audience.

The Special Broadcasting Service was created by the Federal Government in 1979. The S.B.S. was charged with the provision of multilingual radio and multi-cultural T.V. (Channel 0/28). Radio 2EA, the Sydney station of the S.B.S., broadcasts weekly in 52 languages. The S.B.S. has its own news service with extensive links with news services overseas.

Four part-time broadcasters are appointed to the Dutch language programme. They were selected by a panel which contained two well-known personalities from the Dutch community.

The programmes still draw a considerable listening audience. They are prepared locally and presented 'live' from the studios in Clarence Street and programmes often contain items received from the transcription service of "Radio Nederland Wereld Omroep".

One of the highlights of the Dutch language programmes was the direct broadcast of the inauguration speech of H.M. Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands in 1980.

The radio production is supported by a listener's association which publishes a quarterly information sheet.

Radio 2EA Dutch Programme can be heard on Mondays from 11 a.m.-12 noon, Thursdays 4 p.m.-5 p.m. and Sundays 9 a.m.-10 a.m. on the AM band, 1386 Khz, Wollongong 1485 Khz and Newcastle 1584 Khz.