“Unprecedented” is the word that comes to mind when one considers all that has happened thus far in 2020. From bushfires, to flooding and then coronavirus, this has been a year that nobody would have expected at the end of 2019. In these uncertain times, 2MFM has been a home for the socially isolated to connect and feel supported. Our team has worked hard to provide listeners with the latest information that they need regarding government announcements and coronavirus developments. Ramadan this year has definitely been different for all of us as the government introduced rules that made many of the things that we had become accustomed to, such as family gatherings, congregational prayers, and social iftars, no longer possible. Despite all the challenges, the Muslim community in Sydney has been resilient and there have been some inspiring moments of communities adapting to face the unknown. We hope that the remaining days of Ramadan bring with them an abundance of blessings for you and your families. Although we may not be able to meet this year at the Sydney Eid Festival, please remember that 2MFM is always here for you.
2MFM DEALS WITH COVID-19 THREAT

2mfm produced a video as requested by the Community Broadcasting Foundation to be published on the CBF Facebook page. The video outlined how broadcasters/stations are responding to COVID protocols, any changes to programming and how we're ensuring to stay on air to stay connected with our audience. We outlined that we are doing our bit to help stop the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) by applying all the health directives issued by the Department of Health to protect our staff and volunteers from contracting the virus. This includes:

- Adhering to social distancing measures and regularly sanitizing equipment and appliances.
- We've also implemented a system that enables remote broadcasting for staff and volunteers who are unable to physically attend the station.
- We are also committed to serving the needs of our diverse community during these trying times by providing regular updates on the spread of the virus and government regulations in different languages in order to help our listeners adhere to the directives and adapt to the new changes especially during the month of Ramadan.
- Press conferences held by the Prime Minister and the NSW Premier were also aired regularly. They were also interpreted in the Arabic language to ensure the messages were reaching the Arabic speaking community as well who make up at least half of the population of 2mfm listeners.
2MFM SIMPLIFIES COVID-19 INFORMATION FOR CALD COMMUNITIES.

During the COVID-19 crisis, members of the Muslim community from non-English speaking backgrounds faced a major hurdle in the form of accessing information/updates in their language. As such, 2mfm worked on translating, simplifying and delivering key updates and vital information regarding Covid-19 through our radio service. This includes providing accurate, reliable and relevant information about public health guidelines and policies, relief funds or public benefits. With that, we helped to eliminate any confusion, fear and anxiety that is circulating within the culturally and linguistically diverse community, especially so for migrants, refugees and those with limited English proficiency.

It is for that reason that 2mfm took the initiative to disseminate the information about the government’s COVID safe app by recording it in a number of languages to ensure that different community ethnic groups are well aware and up-to-date with the relevant services and applications available. We believe there is a great responsibility upon us as a community radio station to provide information to all community members in the language that they understand. Especially when it’s information that is essential to their health and wellbeing, especially when it’s associated with a potentially life-threatening virus.
2MFM PROVIDES EXTENSIVE COVERAGE ON THE CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

Mrs Dana, the News & Views Presenter worked extremely hard to keep our community well informed by interviewing key professionals from the department of health, from the police force, as well as academics, and politicians. She particularly engaged with the police department so that they can answer key questions that the community has about what they should and shouldn’t do in terms of visits and social distancing requirements. Mrs Dana ensured that the information relayed by key organizations and government officials were interpreted in Arabic to ensure the Arabic community understood what was required of them too. Among those she interviewed also was the Governor of NSW who presented a Ramadan message and commended the community for their compliance with government regulations and advice.

Among the people who were interviewed include:

- Challengers chief executive Angela Murphy about the concern that older Australians have about the impact of covid-19 on their financial security.
- Senator Anne Ruston, Minister for families and Social Services regarding the campaign to combat domestic violence during the covid-19 crisis
- Director of Community Engagement at the National Debt Helpline, Maura Angle about the National Debt Helpline and the type of assistance they provide for those enduring financial strain
- Director of Multicultural Health Communication Service, Lisa Woodland about the latest findings on the coronavirus.
- Crime Manager -Detective Inspector Andrew Evans From Bankstown Police Area Command about some of the the health directives announced by the Federal and state Governments as well as how the police will engage with the community in the coming months.
- Dr Siobhan O’Sullivan, Social Researcher at University of NSW about the issue of animal cruelty in Asian wet markets and the move to ban trade in wild animal meat, and the effects of COVID-19 crisis on companion animals

All interviews can be listened to via the 2mfm Soundcloud and facebook pages.
The coronavirus had a tremendous impact on 2mfm's financial situation and threatened the continuity of our operations due to a loss in sponsorship revenue. During this period, a lot of businesses lost a lot of revenue, which meant they can no longer afford sponsorship. Thus, the rapid decline in our sponsorship made it financially difficult for the radio station to operate optimally and sustainably. There was also reduced involvement by our immunocompromised staff and volunteers who were not physically able to attend the radio station. So, it was a very trying time for 2mfm.

But thankfully, due to the overwhelming generosity of our listeners during our successful fundraising drive in the month of Ramadan we were able to fundraise a substantial amount of money to help. With their donations we were able to meet all expenses needed to upgrade any necessary equipment in order for us to continue our broadcasting mission of ensuring your voice and the voice of the true knowledge will continue to be heard.

We also thank the various organizations for allowing us to apply for emergency funding to ensure the stability and sustainability of our radio station. We applied for funding to ensure air-continuity with funded equipment and software that broadcasters can use for remote broadcasting. The funding we applied for will also help assist with required operational costs such as wages and utility, sponsorship replacement costs, administration and equipment costs.

We are proud and honored to keep doing what we do best in offering beneficial programs to our generous and caring communities. We thank the community once more for their unwavering and thoughtful support, love and generous giving.
2MFM DISTRIBUTES ESSENTIAL FOOD PACKS AMID COVID-19 CRISIS.

A big thank you to our generous 2MFM sponsors and volunteers who gave a lending hand to prepare and distribute much needed essential food packs during the month of Ramadan for the Sydney community amidst the COVID-19 crisis. May Allah bless all those involved and reward you greatly.
2MFM Programming Gets Bigger and Better!

The community radio station’s hosts had to get creative in their efforts to keep our listeners engaged and entertained, especially at a time when a lot of entertainment facilities, parks, cafes and restaurants and mosques were closed. The pandemic also clashed with one of the biggest Islamic occasions - the month of Ramadan which is a time known for its high community engagement, family dinners.

2MFM made great use of social media by broadcasting many of its live programs using Facebook Live. The religious ‘Hukmudeen program’ was broadcasted on Facebook Live for the very first time which proved to be a big hit, especially since mosques were closed and people could not physically attend religious classes therein. The community were also given the opportunity to ask questions in the comments section of Facebook Live in addition to calling in live and through WhatsApp messaging.

The Kids Show

The Kids Show team held a remarkable series of episodes on the Kids Show this Ramadan 2020. The series provided facts and insights to the young listeners about the wisdom of fasting Ramadan and a better understanding of the concept of fasting. The series involved a diversity of factual and insightful topics, fasting tips, recipes, stories and DIY projects, all under the theme of the occasion. The highlight of the series was the 2020 Ramadan Competition, that was held throughout the season. Young children had participated in memorising a historically famous seventeen-line poem in the Arabic language, known as ‘Muqtada Ash-Shahadatayn’. Many young listeners had actively engaged on the show and had come to premises to participate.

All participants were granted great giveaways and certificates while the top winners received additional cash giveaways. The young listeners were delightful and eager to be engaged with their community through the Kids Show during the Holy month of Ramadan.

AM & PM Drivetime

The AM & PM Drivetime Shows provided a platform to discuss the latest issues, developments and news surrounding the coronavirus epidemic. The show provided extensive support to the listeners by sharing tips on how to cope with the pandemic in aspects including financially, socially and emotionally. The presenters worked very hard during this period to provide first and second generation migrant communities especially with accurate, culturally relevant information in their languages while also giving listeners the confidence to ask about how the pandemic is transmitted, generating knowledge, and clearing rumors and false news, contributing to the prevention of COVID-19. They also helped to persuade the public to adhere to the directives and measures recommended by the experts and government to control COVID-19 in Australia. In addition, the talk-back show gave listeners the opportunity to call in, ask questions and express their concerns.
Nadia Zahr, Community Connect Presenter launched an exciting new series that proved to be a hit during the month of Ramadan. It featured captivating interviews with widely known female chefs, cooks, and food bloggers within the diverse Muslim community. The culinary entrepreneurs were invited to share the personal stories of how they developed the passion and love for the culinary world. Among those interviewed include former MasterChef contestant Hoda Kobeissi, qualified chef Mariam Mounajed, popular cook and food blogger Taghrid Ahmad and food stylist and photographer Lina Jebeile.

The focus of the program was to relay the message that women can achieve what they set out to achieve, regardless of what path and route they take, regardless of where they come from and whether or not they have children. Through their stories, we are also able to learn about the connection between food and culture, how food is a way of preserving culture, how traditional cuisine is passed down from one generation to the next and how the style of cooking and recipe sharing has changed from a decade ago. Each of the women that were interviewed have a large follower count on Instagram and work tirelessly to empower women to not only be confident cooks but have the confidence to pursue their life-long passion and build a career in whatever field they wish. The program achieved its purpose of rectifying misconceptions about Muslim women, specifically first and second-generation migrant Muslim women. These women are an indication that they have a voice, that they are empowered, they are not oppressed, they have a choice to follow their passion. It also gave a new and unique perspective about the rise of the social media cook.

All four of the episodes can be found on the 2mfm SoundCloud page.
2MFMs has been working with the National Ethnic and Multicultural Broadcasters’ Council (NEMBC) to promote a “Community Radio Engagement Project” which aims to make the NDIS more accessible to those communities and break down disability stigmas.

The National Ethnic Disability Alliance (NEDA) has partnered with the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) to launch a new radio project. The radio project, known as the “Community Radio Engagement Project” was introduced after new data revealed that despite the high level of disability needs within the refugee and humanitarian entrants’ communities, the access rate to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) remains relatively low. The radio campaign which was aired for 12 weeks includes:

- Increasing awareness on disability
- Breaking down disability stigmas
- Introducing services provided by the NDIS to humanitarian entrants, refugees and emerging communities.
- Directing the targeted communities to the right resources and by doing so, increase the NDIS accessibility rate

The campaign contains 40-seconds announcements, 2 two-minute podcasts and Radio interview with our Ambassadors in Arabic. Mrs Faten El Dana OAM interviewed Mr Mustafa Ardati who spoke about his experience and how NDIS helped him and his family deal with the difficulties they have encountered because of his disability.
Here at 2mfm, your contribution and input is valued to us. Whatever skills or talents you possess, we want to engage with you in all aspects of our radio service. If your community is interested in producing a particular program for 2mfm, please get in touch with our programming committee via 97072747 or contactus@2mfm.org. We invite your feedback, your input and volunteer participation, because we believe you can make a difference, to making 2mfm even better and stronger!

**MEMBERSHIP**

If you are interested in becoming a member of the station please call (02) 97072747 or email the station with membership on the subject line and send it to contactus@2mfm.org.

*Please note: If you’re already a member, but your details (including address, phone number or email have changed, please email us with your updated details.

**YOUR SUPPORT**

Continue to support 2MFM, the radio that serves you. Make a donation today to keep your radio station running. No amount is too little.

Account name: Muslim Community Radio
BSB: 082-128
Account Number: 53059 4280

40 Hector Street Chesterhill
(02) 9707 2747
WWW.2MFM.ORG