

mediadiversity

A U S T R A L I A

We are a nationwide not-for-profit organisation run by journalists and communication professionals.
Australia is culturally and linguistically diverse. Australia's media should be too.

Dear MDA supporters,

In our September issue, Spotlight On: Nine's Abbir Dib writes on why her scepticism "about diversity initiatives was quickly quelled." We also delve into the paid summer internship 2022 initiative and celebrate our founder and chair Isabel Lo and Director Antoinette Lattouf on receiving a B&T Women In Media Award along with a roundup of Community Voices in Melbourne update and much more.

In this issue:

- **Spotlight On:** Abbir Dir on why her scepticism about diversity initiatives quickly quelled.
- **Our summer internships in partnership with Google News Initiative:** How to enter.
- **Community Voices:** The Judith Neilson Institute and Media Diversity Australia invite outstanding individuals from Melbourne to apply for Community Voices in 2022.
- **B&T Women In Media Awards:** Our founders get a double gong.
- **Inclusive reporting webinar:** The upcoming professional development seminar with The Walkley Foundation and Scanlon Foundation is around the corner.
- **40 Under 40: Most influential Asian-Australians 2021:** MDA co-founder and Chair Isabel Lo recognised as a person of influence.



Spotlight On: Scepticism and diversity initiatives



Abir Dib, Producer at [Nine News Melbourne](#).

"Media diversity?" I asked aloud, staring at my university emails that had been forwarded by one of the lecturers. It was an advertisement for paid internships organised by Media Diversity Australia for journalism students with an interest in cultural diversity. I guess I am considered a culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) person, and my parents do yell at me in Arabic sometimes. I wrote to my tutor expressing my reservations about applying for the 2020 MDA summer internship. Why should I be given space in the industry simply for being 'diverse'? I didn't feel less fortunate than my peers.

@AbbirDib 

Nevertheless, I applied, and through each following interview rounds, I spoke passionately about writing and my dreams of working in a publication (think Stan's The Bold Type). I never thought I would work in television news; I was surrounded by university peers who had practised their 'broadcast' voice and nailed their reporter outfits. I never imagined myself strutting around a weatherboard or holding a microphone talking about serious issues, given I rarely saw myself represented in those roles on TV.

So when I was successful and placed in the Nine newsroom in Melbourne for six weeks, I was pretty terrified. I was thrust out to chase stories, door knock, conduct interviews and cold-call people. Making an impression in the newsroom was a daunting task since everyone was busy meeting tight deadlines. I very quickly became addicted to the fast-paced news cycle environment.

Despite my initial reservations, it quickly became blindingly obvious why the MDA internship was revolutionary for me.



At the end of my internship in early 2020, I was offered a role as chief of staff assistant at Nine News Melbourne. My job included setting up interviews, responding to breaking news and liaising with camera crews, producers and reporters. I've since been moved to producing television packages and also out in the field chasing news. I've now written breaking news pieces and blogs for [The Age](#). I've also used my MDA internship experience to pitch to editors at other outlets and illuminate issues underrepresented in the media, such as Lebanon's economic crisis, gendered sexual assault and racial microaggressions.

Despite my initial reservations, it quickly became blindingly obvious why the MDA internship was revolutionary for me. My initial guilt quickly quelled. So, when I was confronted by a sea of nepotism and asked, "whom did you know to get in?" I didn't feel proud that I 'worked hard to get inside the newsroom; I just felt annoyed I was the outlier. I realised I stood a very small chance 'getting in without an internship since my family had no connections in journalism. I was even asked by coworkers why a 'diversity' opportunity should even exist, but I felt proud defending MDA.



The summer internship gave me the rare opportunity to build a career in a well-respected company that I would honestly not have seen myself working at, let alone loving. It taught me to build a thick skin, chase talent, write scripts, present news and learn to use programs like ENPS. I'm incredibly excited for future internships and mentorship opportunities like this that bring more perspectives, talent and nuance to newsrooms in Australia.



Summer Internships in partnership with Google News Initiative

If you're a final year journalism student in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Canberra, Perth or Brisbane looking for an opportunity to obtain more experience in the media industry, then we've got you covered.

MDA's summer paid internship 2022 is back and bigger than ever, with 10 media outlets participating and supporting meaningful pathways into paid internships in some of the country's most reputable media outlets.

If you know someone you feel would benefit from the opportunity, please share the link and help spread the word. Entries close at 5pm AEST on Thursday, October 14. Successful candidates will be announced in late November after an interview process.

Click the link [here](#) to learn more.

Strategic Partner



Media Partners



Apply now: Community Voices Melbourne



The Judith Neilson Institute and Media Diversity Australia invite outstanding individuals from Melbourne to apply for Community Voices in 2022.

The program aims to strengthen the ability of people from diverse backgrounds to participate in the national conversation.

Over 12 months, the Community Voices program will provide you with sustained, intensive training, support and experience to help you engage effectively with the media and participate in public life.

You will be trained across different mediums including TV, radio and print interviews and communicating well on social media. You will learn how newsrooms make editorial decisions, how to pitch yourself to media organisations and how to manage the pressure that comes with a public profile. You will get the opportunity to use these new skills in live media situations that will build your experience.

You don't need media experience to apply and there is no age limit. We are seeking applications from people with ethnic, linguistic and religious diversity, different political and cultural outlooks, or experiencing socio-economic challenges, for example, unemployment, homelessness. Successful applicants will be chosen based on their potential media talent and also their close connections to and deep understanding of their communities.

[APPLY HERE](#) Applications close on Monday, September 20, 2021.

The 2021 B&T Women In Media Awards



This year's B&T Women In Media Awards comes at a time where we have seen and experienced a surge in social justice issues and a call for industries to rethink and reshape their approach to diversity and inclusiveness. Yet despite the evolving national and global health crisis, women continue to rise and enact positive change, innovation and help shift perceptions and social norms.

The B&T Women In Media Awards is a celebration that recognises some of the very best women in Australia's advertising and media industry who work tirelessly to affect change but make the work they do seem effortless.

Two such female powerhouses are our very own co-founders Isabel Lo and Antoinette Lattouf. They were named winners of the prestigious B&T Women In Media Awards in the category Champions of Change.

The need for positive change is constant, and we recognise the outstanding contribution these women continue to make in their advocacy which aims to ensure our media industry is as culturally and linguistically diverse as the Australia we live in today.



Antoinette Lattouf and Isabel Lo

2021 B&T Women in Media Awards



Inclusive reporting webinar #3: Expanding your audience



In partnership with the [Walkley Foundation](#) and [Scanlon Foundation](#), this September's Inclusive reporting webinar #3: Expanding your audience will be an exciting and compelling event that aims to support the professional development of Australian journalists. The main objective is to develop journalists understanding of the importance of diversity and inclusion through the lens of reporting with contributing critical thinking and conversation from Jen Sharpe and Asanti Abubakar.

Date: Thursday 23 September

Time: 5:30pm – 7:00pm

This event is FREE; however, spots are limited, and [registration](#) is essential to secure your place.



40 Under 40 Most Influential Asian-Australians for 2021

This year our founder and Chair Isabel Lo was recognised as one the most influential Asian Australians under 40 for 2021.

"These awards shine the light on the extraordinary pipeline of Asian-Australian talent with a view to ensuring that the boards and leadership teams of Australia's most significant organisations are more reflective of our diverse population," says Jason Johnson, founder and Managing Partner of Johnson Partners and co-convenor of the Awards.

There is a growing awareness and confidence among young Asian-Australians to step up as leaders, be recognised and be role models for others. It is an exciting near future for Australia and for organisations, like Asialink, dedicated to driving meaningful creative engagement with our region," says Dr Pippa Dickson, Director of Asialink Arts and co-convenor of the Awards. "

Chronic underrepresentation will inevitably impact Australia's future success. The Awards broaden the diversity agenda and highlight the achievements of Asian-Australians. As a past recipient, it continues to inspire me to meaningfully contribute to the nation's most important issues," says Tuanh Nguyen, Director of Legal at PwC Australia and co-convenor of the Awards.



ASIAN-AUSTRALIAN LEADERSHIP SUMMIT
aals.com.au

40 UNDER 40 MOST INFLUENTIAL ASIAN-AUSTRALIANS 2021

DIANA NGUYEN JULIET CATHERINA WIDYASARI BURNETT MARIA TRAN
MINDY MENG WANG ASTRID JORGENSEN ROBERT DENISH WOOD
FRANCES VOON ERIN WEN AI CHEW ISABEL LO MONG LINH DO
GIANCARLO DE VERA PETER CAI SEIJI ARMSTRONG CATHERINE MAH
WING YAN GLORIA YUEN TRACY LE STANLEY WANG JESSICA YUSTANTIO
LEE MARTIN TAJ PABARI JEANETTE KAR YEE CHEAH LISA TEH NICK LA
REGGIE BA-PE III JAYR TENG AMIT SINGH HIROKO ITO NANCY LU YANG
THUY HUONG REBECCA BAGGIANO CELIA TRAN OSMOND CHIU
CHARISHMA KALIYANDA QILIN WANG XIAOWEI WANG ERIC CHOW
NOUSHIN NASIRI SUMEET WALIA ZAHRA YASH DUTT SAMANTHA KERR

#ASIANAUSLEADERSHIP





Want to help create a media that looks and sounds like Australia?

As a not-for-profit organisation, we rely on the help of our incredible volunteers. With your financial and volunteer support, we can continue to run programs to support culturally and linguistically diverse journalists, conduct agenda-setting research, run networking events, provide practical solutions for the media industry, and much more. If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to support the vital work we do, please click [here](#)

About us

Media Diversity Australia (MDA) is a national not-for-profit organisation led by journalists and media professionals. Australia is culturally and linguistically diverse, and our media should be too. Established in 2017, MDA has a unique role as a champion of cultural diversity in Australian journalism and news media. We have a vision for a media industry with full and equal participation for culturally diverse people at all levels.



Diversity and inclusion, which are the real grounds for creativity, must remain at the centre of what we do. - **Marco Bizzarri** -

Get in touch:

- Operations Director: Chris Vaughan
- Email: chris@mediadiversityaustralia.org
- Phone: (+61) 421 330 744

