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BOILING POINT - LOCKDOWN: A NEW RADIO DRAMA WHICH EXPLORES THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC FOR MACEDONIAN SPEAKING COMMUNITY

In a first-of-its-kind initiative, the NSW Multicultural Health Communications Service and South Eastern Sydney Local Health District's Multicultural Health Service are launching *Boiling Point - Lockdown*, a new Macedonian language radio drama exploring the COVID-19 pandemic through the experiences of a Macedonian family in Sydney.

Written by award-winning playwright Dushan Ristevski and performed by the Australian-Macedonian Theatre of Sydney, the 45 minute radio play dramatically depicts the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the family's daily lives, relationships and future plans.

Lisa Woodland, Director of the NSW Multicultural Health Communications Service, said the project is part of the Service's continuing efforts to engage the state's culturally and linguistically diverse communities with COVID-19 messages in innovative ways.

"The Macedonian speaking community has a strong tradition of community theatre and our experience has shown that we can use theatre-based communications to explore complex and emotional health issues in a way that resonates," Ms Woodland said. "When this year's extended lockdown period put live performances on hold indefinitely, we decided to develop a play for radio so it could be enjoyed by the community regardless of any COVID-19 restrictions."

South Eastern Sydney Local Health District is home to one of NSW's largest Macedonian speaking communities. The District's Multicultural Health Service has previously used live community theatre productions to successfully engage Macedonian speaking community members on often stigmatised topics such as cancer and mental health.

Boiling Point – Lockdown is available for listening on the NSW Multicultural Health Communications Service website: <https://www.mhcs.health.nsw.gov.au/about-us/campaigns-and-projects/current-campaigns/macedonian-radio-play>

About *Boiling Point – Lockdown*

Boiling Point – Lockdown explores the experiences of a Macedonian family struggling to deal with the challenges of everyday life during the COVID-19 pandemic. Pre-COVID, everyone is doing well in life – working, planning to travel, and preparing for a family wedding. When COVID-19 arrives, their dreams are shattered. The changing restrictions, combined with the fear of catching the virus cause stress within the family. Throughout the uncertainties of lockdown, they reflect on their health, learn how to adapt, and look forward to getting back to their normal lives.