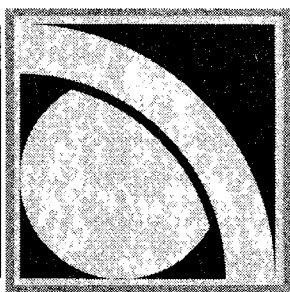


# ABA



# Update

NEWSLETTER OF THE AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING AUTHORITY

NUMBER 10/AUGUST 1993

## COMMUNITY TELEVISION ON THE WAY FOR CANBERRA AND BRISBANE

**T**he ABA is preparing the way for community television in Canberra and Brisbane.

The ABA has received applications from organisations in Canberra and Brisbane wishing to provide a community television service. These are being handled on a confidential basis.

Any local organisation which wants to provide such a service should contact the ABA to discuss their eligibility and how to apply for a radiocommunications (transmitter) licence.

'Community broadcasting is about public participation. We look at applications for evidence of open membership policies, grievance mechanisms and the right of the community to join in the operation and management of the service', said Mr Brian Johns, ABA Chairman.

Before a licence is issued, the ABA assesses applications to ensure consistency with the purpose for which the spectrum is made available (community and educational non-profit use). The ABA safeguards community participation in the licences by employing its Access Statement (see below) which details the extent to which services should be open to groups and individuals within the area to be served.

Community television in Canberra and Brisbane will utilise the sixth channel, the last high power free-to-air television channel available in many parts of Australia. In these areas the other five channels are taken up by ABC, SBS and three commercial services.

Because the ABA cannot presently allocate permanent licences for the sixth channel, community television will be provided as an open narrowcasting service in Canberra and Brisbane. Transmitter licences could be issued in Canberra and

Brisbane shortly. No permanent licences for the sixth channel can be allocated until after a Ministerial review of the television broadcasting industry, to be conducted before 1 July 1997. Licences have already been allocated to community and educational access groups in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Lismore. Groups wishing to use the sixth channel, in areas which have not yet been licensed, must apply to the ABA for a radiocommunications transmitter licence.

Application forms for transmitter licences are available from Ann Bourne, (06) 256 2860.

### ACCESS STATEMENT

The ABA is committed to making available radiofrequency spectrum (the so called 'sixth channel') for allocation to providers of open narrowcasting services for community and educational non-profit use. In exercising its discretion to issue transmitter licences to applicants proposing to provide such services, the ABA will have regard to the extent to which the service will be accessible to individuals and relevant groups within the area to be served. In considering the accessibility, the ABA will give consideration to the extent to which the applicant's constituting documents safeguard:

1. the level of openness or non-exclusivity in membership and membership policy;
2. the existence and fairness of any grievance mechanisms relating to membership exclusions;
3. the equity of access for members to programming airtime and the existence of structures including a grievance

*continued on p.2*

### This Month:

- 2 Pay TV research
- 3 UCOM and HI Vision suitable
- 4 FAPs - Second draft
- 4 How many television channels?
- 8 Digital audio broadcasting
- 11 Is television deserving of our interest?
- 12 Conference reports
- 14 Television violence
- 16 Police and the media
- 16 Programs classified C and P
- 17 Captioning in a new environment
- 20 Book review
- 22 New in the Library

## REMINDER - THE ABA IS MOVING

The Sydney Head office of the ABA is moving.

From 2 August, the address is:  
Level 15, Darling Park  
201 Sussex Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

The new postal address is:

PO Box Q500  
Queen Victoria Building NSW 2000  
DX 11531 Sydney Downtown  
Ph: (02) 334 7700  
Fax: (02) 334 7799