

LANDMARK WORLD SUMMIT TO DISCUSS CHILDREN'S TELEVISION

Over four hundred people, representing organisations from 62 countries, have so far registered for the first World Summit on Television and Children, to be held 12-17 March 1995, at the World Congress Centre in Melbourne. Fifty-six speakers so far have confirmed their participation in this landmark event, hosted by the Australian Children's Television Foundation.



Dr Patricia Edgar, director of the Australian Children's Television Foundation

Some of the speakers include: **Keith Spicer**, Canadian Radio-Television and Communications Commission; **Mogens Vemmer**, Children's Programmes, Danmarks Radio (Denmark); **Christian Davin**, France Animation; **Ursula von Zallinger**, PRXJEUENESSE (Germany); **Paolo de Benedetti**, Children's Programs,

RAI 1 (Italy); **Katsura Yaegashi**, Japan Prize; **Feny de los Angeles Bautista**, Philippines Children's Television Foundation; **Dr Ivy Matseppe-Cassaburri**, South African Broadcasting Corporation; **Anna Home**, OBE, Children's Television, British Broadcasting Commission; **Lady Howe**, British Broadcasting Standards Council; **Colin Shaw**, British Broadcasting Standards Council; **Geraldine Laybourne**, Nickelodeon; **James P Grant**, UNICEF (United States).

To receive a copy of the program which details the topics and objectives of the World Summit contact: The World Summit Secretariat, Australian Children's Television Foundation, 199 Grattan Street, Carlton, Victoria, 3053. Phone: (03) 348 1144. Fax: (03) 347 4194. ☐

'WHAT STORIES ARE WE TELLING OUR CHILDREN?'

SYMPOSIUM PRESENTED BY THE STANLEY FOSTER FOUNDATION, REGENT HOTEL, MELBOURNE, 20-21 AUGUST 1994

This two day symposium covered a broad range of topics, featuring speakers from a range of academic disciplines, special interest groups and other organisations, including the ABA. The organisers, led by Dr Helen Caldicott, director of the Stanley Foster Foundation, intended the event to be a stimulus for discussion on how the media, and in particular, television, shape our cultural goals. This allowed for a diverse range of presentations, and some stimulating discussion.

The first day's sessions included: 'The Media is Determining the Fate of the Earth' from Dr Helen Caldicott; 'The Ambiguity of the Press' by Hugo Kelly, environmental writer for *The Age*; and 'From Video Games to Virtual Reality' by Dr Ken Wark from Macquarie University.

Issues discussed included future directions for technology and their projected impact on society. These issues include the 'information superhighway' and virtual reality, and covered environmental issues and concepts of cultural myths and heroes.

The second day featured presentations on 'Media Ownership' by Paul Chadwick from the Communications Law Centre; 'Family Disruption: Different Ways Families Control Television' given by Professor Patricia Gillard, RMIT; 'Kids as Customers' by Barbara Biggins, president of the Australian Council for Children's Film and Television; and 'Kids' Television and Classification Issues' presented by Debra Richards and Linda Sheldon of the ABA. Topics on this day covered education, research-related findings and child development issues, including the influence of television on children and their attitudes and behaviours toward it. ☐

section is currently consulting with the Confederation of Australian Subscription Television on its draft code, which was presented to the ABA in early September 1994, prior to release for public comment. Consultation has commenced with the Federation of Australian Narrowcasting and Subscription Services on the development of codes for narrowcast radio and television services.

LICENCE CONDITIONS

Schedule 2 of the Broadcasting Services Act imposes special conditions upon all licensees. These conditions relate to matters such as the broadcast of election advertisements and the recording of broadcast matter relating to a political subject or current affairs. The schedule also applies various conditions to the respective categories of service provider. These conditions include matters as diverse as the prohibition of tobacco advertising, the condition that a licensee remain suitable and a prohibition on the broadcast of material which the Office of Film and Literature Classification has refused classification or has classified X. Examples of 'sector specific' conditions include the condition that commercial television licensees contribute to the provision of an adequate and comprehensive range of broadcasting services in their licence area. There is also a condition on community broadcasting services that they encourage the members of the community they serve to participate in the selection and provision of programs.

There are often queries from broadcasters and the public about the obligations these conditions impose. Codes and Conditions section has conducted a number of investigations into possible breaches of conditions of licence by narrowcasters.

STAFF

Staff of the section are Lesley Osborne, Gordana Marin, Sharon Burden, Rosalie O'Neale, Marie McArdle, Glen Farina, Sue Thompson and Lachlan Habgood. ☐