

## 3MP/3EE SIMULCASTING - FINAL REPORT

Following the launch of a new format for former Melbourne commercial radio service 3EE on 26 March 1994, which ended a period of simulcasting with 3MP, the ABA has decided to impose no penalty on the owners' failure to comply with its notices.

The ABA has released a report which details the reasons for the decision.

The report is in three parts. Part 1 contains the report of the investigation into whether Wesgo Ltd and Malbend Pty Ltd, complied with notices issued by the ABA on 23 November 1993. These notices directed Wesgo and Malbend to take action to cease broadcasting on the 3MP service substantially the same program stream as that broadcast on the 3EE service.

The ABA decided Wesgo and Malbend had not complied with the notices issued to them as Malbend was still broadcasting on the 3MP service substantially the same program stream as that broadcast on the 3EE service.

Part 2 of the report contains the ABA's decision on what course of action it would take in relation to Wesgo's and Malbend's failure to comply with the notices.

Part 3 of the report contains the ABA's decision (and reasons for the decision) on penalties. The ABA decided to impose no penalty in relation to Wesgo and Malbend's failure to comply with the notices issued on 23 November 1993. For copies of the report, please contact Belinda Spouncer on (02) 334 7882.



## BOCP AND TVOCP TRAINING TO CONTINUE

Government departments have relinquished administration of the Broadcast Operators Certificate of Proficiency (BOCP) and the Television Operators Certificate of Proficiency (TVOCP).

From 1 April 1994, the administration of these two certificates has been the responsibility of a steering committee, comprising of representatives from the commercial television and commercial radio industries, the ABC, the SBS, the Public Sector Union and the relevant Technical Training Institutes.

The BOCP and TVOCP courses will continue to be available from certain TAFE colleges, or by correspondence from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT).

The BOCP and TVOCP Certificates will be issued by the Training Institutes and a proposed central register of certificates kept by the steering committee.

Two sub-committees have been formed, the BOCP subcommittee, chaired by Mr G Baczocha of ABC Radio, (telephone (02) 333 2643) and the TVOCP subcommittee, chaired by Mr E Hitchen of FACTS, (telephone (02) 960 2622).

Further information can be obtained from the two chairmen, or from the relevant TAFE College.

### BACKGROUND TO TVOCP

At the commencement of television in Australia, it was decided that certain technical control positions in the system should be staffed by technical personnel who held a minimum qualification. These positions were at the transmitter, in master control and at an outside broadcast. The qualification was the Television Operators Certificate of Proficiency (TVOCP). The TVOCP was

and still is incorporated into the TVI Award.

The first certificate was awarded to Stanley Graves of Sydney on 18 January 1957, along with 46 others on that day. Since then nearly two thousand technicians have been awarded the certificate.

Over the years, different government instrumentalities have administered the syllabus of the course, set the exam papers and issued the certificates. In later years they have been responsible only for the syllabus and the issuing of certificates and, as of April, these latter responsibilities will also be relinquished by the present government instrumentality, which is the Spectrum Management Agency.

An Advisory Committee has assisted the various government instrumentalities in the administration of the TVOCP.

A steering committee and two working parties, one for the TVOCP and the other for the Broadcast Operators Certificate of Proficiency (BOCP), which is an equivalent certificate for the radio broadcasting industry, have been formed from the members of the Advisory Committee, to take over the role previously held by the Spectrum Management Agency.

The working parties will be responsible for the syllabus and its updating when required. Any college can offer training for the TVOCP it is approved by the Senate Committee.

As the TVOCP and BOCP are the only technical certificates recognised throughout Australia in television, radio production and broadcasting, the Committee stresses the importance of the training that is available in the attainment of these certificates.



## NARROWCASTING FOR RADIO

Narrowcasting is a new type of service introduced by the Broadcasting Services Act in 1992. In contrast to other broadcasting services, narrowcasting services are limited in some way.

'The ABA has released a discussion paper to assist potential radio narrowcasters and other radio service providers to better understand the category definitions under the Act,' said Mr Peter Webb, ABA Acting Chairman.

The ABA has the power to give a formal, written opinion as to which category a proposed service falls into. The category determines the licensing and regulatory regime applicable to the service, with narrowcasting services being more lightly regulated than other forms of broadcasting.

The ABA has received more than a thousand applications for transmitter licences for open narrowcasting radio services since October 1992 and has allocated licences to approximately four hundred operators.

'Music and news have been two of the most difficult program elements for the ABA in assessing categories of services because they are both common program elements in mainstream radio broadcasting,' Mr Webb said.

The paper was previously circulated to relevant industry bodies for comment and is expected to be supplemented or varied in response to any industry developments or comments received.

*The text of the discussion paper follows on pp. 9-13*

