



ABA fosters Asia Pacific regulatory network

SYDNEY - The ABA plans to host a meeting of broadcasting regulators next year to focus on issues relevant to the Asia Pacific region, Mr Peter Webb, ABA Chairman said in his address to the 1995 Cable and Satellite Conference on 15 May.

'Gaining a mutual understanding of different approaches to television within the region will be a considerable step in the direction of increased regional co-operation and understanding,' he said.

'From an Australian perspective, such a degree of contact can only facilitate the efforts already being made by the Australian television production industry to provide programs to developing Asia-Pacific nations.'

Regulatory co-operation, in the form of information exchange, training, agency arrangements and secondment is already taking place, Mr Webb said. The ABA has signed formal memoranda of understanding with its counterparts in the USA and South Africa and has reached in principle agreements with Canadian authorities, the British Broadcasting Standards Council and the recently formed Singapore Broadcasting Authority.

One item sure to have a prominent place on the agenda for the planned meeting of regulators is the topic of children and television, Mr Webb said.

'There are around five hundred million children in the Asia-Pacific region with whose welfare, vis a vis television, we should be concerned,' he said. 'In this area, the ABA has recently moved to sponsor an international forum for researchers interested in the effects that television has on children and the measures that might be taken to ameliorate those effects.'

As part of its engagement with the region, the ABA plans to take up associate membership in the Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union and intends to play a part in its proceedings.

ABA visits northern Queensland and northern NSW

SYDNEY - ABA representatives visited northern Queensland and northern NSW during May to meet with aspirant and existing radio broadcasters to discuss licence area planning for the regions.

In Queensland, Tim O'Keefe (ABA member) and Colin Knowles, Kathy Evatt and Jenny Brigg from Planning Branch met with broadcasters and aspirant groups in Mackay, Townsville, Innisfail, Atherton, Mareeba, Kuranda and Cairns. Broadcasters who are interested in providing new services to the region were encouraged to make submissions to the ABA.

During this visit, ABA representatives were impressed with the level of interest expressed by both licensees and aspirant broadcasters in the planning process. A number of people expressed interest in providing alternative commercial radio services e.g. catering specifically for the over thirty five demographic in their programming. The ABA also spoke with

At the meeting with the aspirant community radio group, Bumma Bipera Media, in Cairns:
L-R: (back) Joseph Margan, Kathy Evatt (ABA), Nathan Williams, Peter Canuto.
(front) Warren Martens, Brian Arley (National Indigenous Media Association of Australia)



Submissions

An information booklet is available to help to prepare written submissions and can be obtained by writing to the above address or calling 008-810-241.

Submissions, quoting file number 93/7715 about northern NSW should be addressed to: Planning Officer for Hunter and Northern NSW at the address below.

Closing date for submissions about northern NSW is: 29 September 1995.

Submissions about northern Queensland, quoting file number 93/7711 should be addressed to Planning Officer for North Queensland at the address below.

Closing date for submissions about northern Queensland LAP is:

15 July 1995 for Cairns and surrounds

31 August 1995 for Townsville and Mackay.

Australian Broadcasting Authority,
PO Box 34,
Belconnen, ACT 2616.



News Update

After the meeting at 2TM Tamworth, L to R: Ivan Scott (2RE Taree), Tim O'Keefe (ABA), Bill Caralis (Super Network Radio), Ted Wilkinson (2TM), Bill Morrison (2TM), Bob Holly (2TM Tamworth), David Hoey (2MO Gunnedah), Don Thomas (2AD Armidale)

aspirant community broadcasters about their interest in providing community radio for their local community and/or community of interest e.g. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, Ethnic and Christian.

In northern NSW Tim O'Keefe and Giles Tanner of Planning Branch, met with broadcasters and aspirant groups in Tamworth, Gunnedah, Moree, Armidale, Inverell, Tenterfield, Grafton, Coffs Harbour, Nambucca Heads, Kempsey, Port Macquarie, Taree and Forster.



ABA allocates pay TV licences to Cosmovision Cable Television

SYDNEY: The ABA has allocated 50 licences for non-satellite pay TV broadcasting services to Cosmovision Cable Television Pty Ltd ('CCT').

CCT has indicated it intends to deliver its pay TV services via cable. The services will contain programs from North America, South America, Europe and other parts of the world and will include several Spanish language channels. At a later date CCT intends to also provide a service consisting of locally produced programs. The services will initially be offered in the western suburbs area of Sydney, with expansion to most of the Sydney metropolitan area envisaged.

'The ABA examined the shareholding structure of the company and found it complied with the foreign ownership provisions of the Broadcasting Services Act,' said Mr Peter Webb, ABA Chairman. 'In addition, the ABA found no reason to regard the company as being unsuitable to be allocated pay TV licences.'

What's the score

Licence holder	No. of licences
Access Cable Television Ltd	110
Access Cable TV (Northern Rivers) Pty Ltd	4
Cable Television Services Pty Ltd	20
Central Coast Cablevision Pty Ltd	54
Cosmovision Cable Television Pty Ltd	50
Cox Media Pty Limited	56
CVC Pay TV Pty Ltd	20
Dergat Pty Ltd	4
Explorer Channel Pty Ltd	1
Graff Pay-Per-View (Australia) Pty Ltd	10
Home Show Cable Australia Pty Ltd	20
Interactive Telecommunications Network Ltd	150
Multicom Australia Pty Ltd	35
NRS Group Pty Ltd	13
Oberon Broadcasters Pty Ltd	10
Pacific Media Telecommunications Pty Ltd	18
Paynet Telecommunications Pty Ltd	8
Planet Pay TV Pty Ltd	20
PPV TV Pty Ltd	20
Premier Cable Australia Pty Ltd	43
Prime Media Developments Pty Ltd	45
Private Cable Network Pty Ltd	102
Rowcom Holdings Pty Ltd	28
Selectra Pty Ltd	50
Star Vision Pty Ltd	50
Vinatech Pty Ltd	50
Visitor Publishing Group Pty Ltd	2
Wright Weller Rosenblum Pty Ltd	10

Total licences issued by the ABA 1003

Classification officers get together

SYDNEY: How do those involved in day-to-day decisions about classification on television maintain a common understanding of the Office of Film and Literature Classification (OFLC) guidelines which underpin the various broadcasting industry codes of practice?

Classification officers from the Nine, Seven, Ten, ABC and SBS networks met on 9 May at the ABA to catch up on recent developments in relation to codes and classification issues.

Lesley Osborne, Director Program Services, and Gordana Marin, Manager Codes and Conditions, reported on complaints against codes of practice and the implementation of the Federation of Australian Commercial Television Stations Commercial Television Industry Code of Practice (FACTS Code). Linda Sheldon, Research Manager, discussed the ABA's research on some of the changes to television