



News Update

while Vinatech is part-owned by CTV Pty Ltd. STV and CTV are part-owned by Australis Media Ltd, who will deliver programming to STV and CTV under a franchise agreement.

Star Vision, a subsidiary of Australis Media Ltd, has indicated it intends to deliver its services Australia-wide via MDS. The prohibition on licensing a pay TV broadcasting service using MDS as a means of delivery ceased to have effect on 31 December 1994.

Star Vision has previously been allocated 30 licences for non-satellite pay TV broadcasting services. The proposed means of delivery for these services was cable.

Interactive has indicated it intends to deliver its services Australia-wide via cable.

The majority of the licences allocated to Interactive are for the provision of near-video-on-demand services. These are movie based services which utilise a large number of channels as they offer the same movies at different times, giving subscribers a choice about viewing time.

The licences are allocated on the basis of one licence per proposed service. The ABA takes a service to be a single stream of programming.

The ABA has now issued a total of 769 licences for non-satellite pay TV broadcasting services.

<i>Licence holder</i>	<i>No. of licences</i>
Access Cable Television Ltd	110
Access Cable TV (Northern Rivers) Pty Ltd	4
Cable Television Services Pty Ltd	20
Central Coast Cablevision Pty Ltd	10
Dergat Pty Ltd	4
Explorer Channel Pty Ltd	1
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
Premier Cable Australia Pty Ltd	43
Prime Media Developments Pty Ltd	45
Private Cable Network Pty Ltd	34
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

Australian content consultation

As part of the review of the program standard for Australian content on television, the ABA held meetings with industry representatives in Sydney and Melbourne in mid December 1994.

The meetings gave the Chairman, Mr Brian Johns, and ABA Member, Mr Tim O'Keefe, the opportunity to hear the views of the broadcasting industry, production industry, public interest groups and the craft unions.

Debate focused on the proposals outlined in the ABA's Working Paper (released in November 1994), in particular on the issues of the amount of Australian drama programs and the way Australian drama should be measured.

The ABA has invited written submissions on the Working Paper proposals from those unable to attend either of the meetings. A total of 27 submissions have been received. These are currently under consideration, along with the transcripts of the Sydney and Melbourne meetings.

The ABA has commenced work with the Office of Legislative Drafting to draft a revised Australian content standard. Once the draft is finalised, the ABA will seek further public comment on the proposed variations to the standard.

Present at the meeting in Sydney were representatives from Grundys, the Australian Screen Directors' Association, Screen Producers Association of Australia (SPAA), Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance, Film Finance Corporation, Australian Film Commission, Presbyterian Women's Association and the Federation of Australian Commercial Television Stations. Bruce Gyngell from the Nine Network and producers including Sandra Levy of Southern Star and David Field of Village Roadshow also attended.

At the meeting in Melbourne were representatives from the Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance, Artists Services, Australian Children's Television Foundation, Australian Children's Television Action Committee, FACTS, SPAA and independent producers.

The ABA would like to express its appreciation to the Australian Film Commission for the use of their facilities in both Sydney and Melbourne.

Singapore visit

SINGAPORE: In an address to the Pan Asian Telecommunications Summit in December, Mr Brian Johns stressed the need to ensure that



the content on new broadband networks reflected the dynamism of contemporary Australian culture and technology.

He also pointed out the benefits Australia could reap from convergence, and the importance of ensuring that Australia's cultural identity was not subsumed through the globalisation of entertainment, broadcasting and information industries. Mr Johns said that while the globalisation of entertainment and communications services should be welcomed in Australia, there was a need for the nation to set up a creative infrastructure for new content industries which supported our cultural objectives.

Mr Johns' speech to the Pan Asian Telecommunications Summit was part of a session on national policy initiatives on convergence and developments towards information superhighways in the Asia-Pacific region.

Mr Johns spoke in his capacity as Chairman of the Broadband Services Expert Group (BSEG).

His speech summarised the findings of the interim BSEG report (*Networking Australia's Future*) and the action already taken by the Federal Government through the Cultural Policy Statement to promote the growth of the multi-media industry.

While in Singapore, Mr Johns and the ABA's Assistant Manager Policy Section Ms Lyn Dunlevy met with the Singapore Broadcasting Authority and the free-to-air satellite

broadcaster, Asia Business News.

Discussions with the SBA were held with the Chairman, Mr Goh Kim Leong, the chief executive officer, Col. Ho Meng Kit, and the director of policy and planning, Ms Ling Pek Ling.

The SBA was established in October 1994 and regulates nationwide radio and

television services as well as narrowcast programs such as video on demand, in-house movie systems in hotels and audiotext services.

The SBA has wide-ranging powers to control material deemed to prejudice the public interest and national harmony or that offends good taste or decency.

Matters covered in the discussions included broadband services, transborder satellite broadcasting and program classification.

Mr Goh explained that the SBA was working

with other government authorities including the Telecommunications Authority of Singapore to develop Singapore as a regional broadcasting hub.

Talks with the chief executive officer of Asia Business News, Mr Paul France covered regional initiatives to develop a code of practice for transborder satellite broadcasting and other regional broadcast regulatory issues.

ABN began operating its satellite business news service out of Singapore in October 1993. The broadcaster estimates that it is now seen on more than 30 million television screens across Asia.

The service is not currently received in Singapore, which bans the general population from receiving direct broadcast satellite broadcasts, however ABN is looking to have its service distributed through cable when cable services become available across Singapore in 1995.

Youth violence inquiry

SYDNEY: The Standing Committee On Social Issues of the New South Wales Legislative Council held a hearing on 13 December 1994 as part of its Inquiry Into Youth Violence.

Ms Lesley Osborne and Ms Gordana Marin of the ABA's Program Services Branch gave evidence to the inquiry. Mr Tony Branigan, General Manager of the Federation of Australian Commercial Television Stations (FACTS) represented the commercial television industry.

The terms of reference for the inquiry include the examination of the policies, actions, research and proposals of relevant Government agencies and the impact of the media portrayal of violence in relation to youth violence. The Standing Committee is chaired by the Hon. Dr Marlene Goldsmith, MLC.

Mr Branigan outlined the development and implementation of the FACTS Code of Practice. In particular he said that the code addressed the concerns about the portrayal of violence which had been expressed code's development process. Mr Branigan also explained the code's classification provisions and how stations ensure compliance with the code.

Ms Osborne outlined the ABA's responsibility to ensure that industry codes registered provide appropriate community safeguards and are adhered to by service providers. The ABA also looked at whether there had been adequate opportunity for the public to comment on the code.

Ms Osborne informed the Committee that of



ABA Chairman Brian Johns and Vincent Lam, Vice-President Planning, Wharf Communications captured at the Pan Asian Telecommunications Summit