

Children's Television

I am pleased to introduce this special edition of *ABA Update* which looks at aspects of children's television in Australia and around the world. It has been timed to coincide with the World Summit on Television and Children being held in Melbourne from 12-17 March 1995 and the Festival of Television for Australian Children which will be broadcast between 20-24 March 1995. These are both landmark events for Australia in the area of children's television.

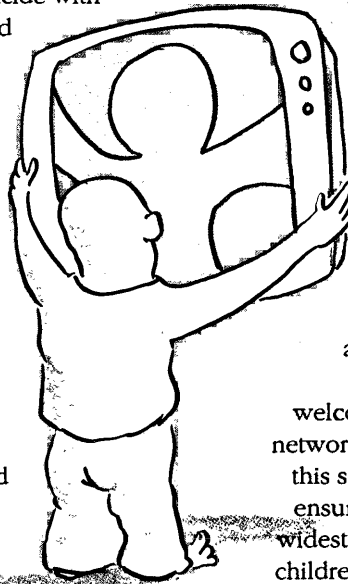
The World Summit is the first meeting of its kind to have been staged. The concept and need for such a meeting emerged through a series of high level discussions around the world and was endorsed by representatives of 13 countries, who are closely involved in broadcasting, at the Prix Jeunesse Round Table held in Munich between 23-26 May 1993.

The ABA supports the World Summit and sees it as a means of focusing attention on this important area of broadcasting and of

recognising the international standing of Australian children's television production.

The ABA also supports the Festival of Television for Australian Children and sees the event as a celebration of quality television programs, from Australia and overseas, made specially for children. The Festival will encourage discussion by parents, educators and program-makers about programs specifically made for children and the role of television within the education system. The ABA welcomes the participation of all the networks, commercial and national, in this special event. Their contribution ensures that the Festival receives the widest possible exposure and enables children from around Australia to take part.

I hope you find this a stimulating edition of *ABA Update*. I believe it will be of great interest to everyone with an interest in children and television. □



Peter Webb,
Acting Chairman,
ABA



World Summit on Television and Children

The Australian Children's Television Foundation will host the first World Summit on Television and Children, in Melbourne from 12-17 March.

Dr Patricia Edgar, Director, Australian Children's Television Foundation expands on what the Summit will offer.

The Summit aims to achieve a greater understanding of developments in children's television around the world, to raise the status of children's programming, to draw to the attention of key players in broadcasting the importance of issues relating to children, to agree a charter of guiding principles in children's television, and to ensure the provision of programs for children will be guaranteed as the communications revolution proceeds.

More than five hundred delegates from over

sixty countries will attend, including broadcasters and producers who are key figures in television. Between them they have immense influence on the sorts of programs which many millions of children watch in their countries, and increasingly around the world. They have a unique opportunity to make something enduring and worthwhile out of this World Summit, which will help define the direction children's television will take in the coming century.

Such an extensive and diverse group has