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interchange and collaboration between national agencies must be based on them becoming well informed about the commonalities and differences in their jurisdictions.

After signing a memorandum of understanding with the Federal Communications Commission, the ABA is pursuing similar agreements with the Independent Broadcasting Authority of South Africa and the British Broadcasting Standards Council.

The ABA intends to seek similar arrangements with its counterparts, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region, over the next 12 months. ☐

ABA allocates pay TV licences to Cox Media and Private Cable Network

SYDNEY—The ABA has allocated 56 licences for non-satellite pay TV broadcasting services to Cox Media Pty Limited and 68 licences for non-satellite pay TV broadcasting services to Private Cable Network Pty Limited.

Cox Media intends to deliver its Australia-wide pay TV services via cable and potentially multipoint distribution (microwave) systems.

For details about the proposed Cox Media service contact Mr Peter Cox on (02) 327 3195.

Private Cable intends to deliver its pay TV services via cable to NSW, Queensland and Victoria.

Private Cable aims to re-transmit satellite pay TV services A, B and C, multipoint distribution (or microwave) services and commercial and community broadcasting services via Single Master Antenna Television, which requires an antenna or head-end to be installed on the top of apartment blocks. Transmissions received through the head-end are reticulated via cable to apartments within a building. This system is used in high density areas, particularly high rise units.

Private Cable was previously allocated 34 licences by the ABA in August 1994 for the delivery of non-satellite pay TV broadcasting services.

Private Cable aims to operate 34 channels in the three states. As the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* requires a separate licence for each service, the company required a further 68 licences to allow for local programming content in each state.

For details about the proposed Private Cable Network service telephone Mr Ray Wilcox on (075) 781 621.

'The ABA examined the shareholding structure of the companies and found they complied with the foreign ownership provisions of the *Broadcasting Services Act*', said Mr Peter Webb, ABA Chairman.

'The ABA found no reason to regard the companies as being unsuitable to be allocated pay TV licences.' ☐

Death on request documentary not in breach

SYDNEY—The Dutch documentary 'Death on Request' aired by the Nine Network at 8.30 p.m. on 24 November 1994, was not in breach of the Commercial Television Industry Code of Practice, the ABA announced on 3 April.

The program depicted the death by euthanasia of a man who was suffering from a degenerative muscle disease and had requested his doctor to end his life with a lethal injection.

The ABA must investigate complaints about programs if a broadcaster fails to answer a complaint within 60 days, or if a person receives a response they find unsatisfactory.

The ABA received two complaints about the program from people who were not satisfied with the broadcaster's response to their concern about the program's classification being 'M' (Mature—for viewing by 15+ age group from 8.30 p.m. on), rather than 'MA' (Mature Adult—for viewing by 15+ from 9 p.m. on).

They were also concerned that promos for the program did not adequately inform the audience of the nature of the program.

'Discussions of euthanasia are controversial and have the capacity to offend and distress some people. However, the ABA doesn't consider the program was inappropriately classified and has decided the promotions for the program also complied with the code,' said Mr Peter Webb, ABA Chairman.

'The ABA realises euthanasia is a topic which covers moral, ethical and religious issues.'

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	10
Cox Media Pty Limited	56
CVC Pay TV Pty Ltd	20
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
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	865



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'However, the program was sensitively produced, showing the emotional struggles of those involved. The program was presented objectively but the introduction alerted viewers to the nature of the program in a responsible way,' Mr Webb said. ☐

New chairman for the ABA

CANBERRA—Minister for Communications and the Arts the Honourable Michael Lee announced on 5 April the appointment of Mr Peter Webb as the new Chairperson of the ABA and Mr Bob Scott as Deputy Chairperson.

Mr Webb's appointment was confirmed by Executive Council on 19 April.

Mr Webb has been involved with the ABA since its inception in 1992, as well as with the ABA's predecessor, the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal. He had earlier served as Deputy Secretary of the NSW Attorney-General's Department.

Mr Webb takes over responsibility following

the recent appointment of Mr Brian Johns as managing director of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

Mr Bob Scott AM, currently chief general manager of Austereo Entertainment and Austereo International, is a former general manager of radio station Triple M Sydney and founding general manager of Wesgo Holdings.

'Mr Webb has the relevant experience and track record as Deputy Chairperson to make an excellent Chairperson of the ABA' said Mr Lee. 'Bob Scott will bring to the ABA a wealth of experience in the broadcasting industry.'

Mr Lee also announced that he would be appointing the Manager of the Spectrum Management Authority, Ms Christine Goode, as an associate member of the ABA.

The *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* provides for the ABA to comprise a Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and not more than five other full-time or part-time members. The other current members are Mr Tim O'Keefe and Ms Kerrie Henderson. ☐



Enjoying a laugh at a recent morning tea organised by ABA Sydney staff to welcome the ABA's new members are (from left): ABA Chairperson Mr Peter Webb, ABA Deputy Chairperson Mr Bob Scott, ABA Associate Member Ms Christine Goode and ABA Member Mr Tim O'Keefe.

Programs granted C or P classifications

Programs granted a C or P classification by the ABA between 14 March 1995 and 7 April 1995. Producers interested in submitting programs for classification should contact Liz Gilchrist on (02) 334 7830.

Title	Origin	Class	New/renewal	Decision date	Applicant
CROCADOO	Australia	PRC	new	21.3.1995	Unlimited Production Pty Ltd
GLAG RAGS MAGIC	Australia	CAD	new	28.3.1995	Nomad Films International Pty Ltd
THE ANIMAL SHOW	USA	C	new	30.3.1995	The Seven Network Ltd
TIME MASTERS	Australia	C	new	21.3.1995	Southern Star Entertainment Pty Ltd

Class Classification. CAD C Australian Drama. PRC Provisional C.