



which are used for non-profit community purposes and which can be received freely by the general public on commonly available equipment.

There is, however, no specific provision in the Broadcasting Services Act for the ABA to issue licences for temporary community television services. The ABA has managed this omission by making spectrum available for community and educational purposes and issuing apparatus licences to community broadcasting groups. The services are provided under open narrowcasting class licences. The ABA has determined a special condition that attaches to each apparatus licence issued for community purposes. This condition provides that the open narrowcasting service be used for community and educational non-profit purposes.

In order to safeguard community access to the sixth chan-

nel, the ABA developed an access statement which sets out the criteria an applicant must satisfy before an apparatus licence is issued. These criteria include the extent to which a service will be accessible to individuals and relevant groups within the area to be served.

Using these criteria, the ABA has made the sixth channel available on an area-by-area basis until 30 June 1997, and has issued temporary apparatus licences in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth/Mandurah, Adelaide, Hobart, Bendigo and Lismore.

There are great variations in how the community television broadcasters are constituted and the programs they provide. A major issue for community television services is the cost associated with providing programs of a quality attractive to viewers. Some of the aspirant community broadcasters have had difficulty obtaining the funding required for their programming needs and have limited capacity to transmit widely.

Submissions

Submissions from interested parties should reach the ABA by 5pm Friday 30 August 1996. These may be sent by e-mail to 6thchannel@aba.gov.au; on disk or in writing (six copies), to The Manager, Sixth Channel Inquiry, Australian Broadcasting Authority, P O Box Q500, QVB Post Office, NSW 1230, or faxed to (02) 9334 7799.

Unless specified as confidential, all submissions will be made available on the ABA's Web site, the ABA's offices in Sydney and Canberra and the Spectrum Management Agency's offices in the Northern Territory and other States. ☐

Debra Richards, ABA Director Programs, reports back on the Asian Summit on Child Rights and the Media which was held in Manila from 2-5 July 1996 as a follow-up to the World Summit on Children and Television held in Melbourne last year.

Asian declaration on child rights and the media

The Asian Summit on Child Rights and the Media was held in Manila from 2 to 5 July. The summit was a follow-up to the first World Summit on Children and Television held in Melbourne in March 1995. The theme of the Manila summit was, 'In the best interests of all children' and covered all forms of the media.

UNICEF was a major sponsor of the summit and the organising committee also included the Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU), Asia Mass Communication Research and Information Centre (AMIC), the Philippine Children's Television Foundation, Council for the Welfare of Children and commercial network in the Philippines, GMA 7.

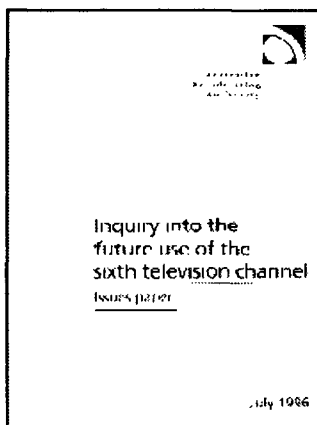
Main issues covered at the summit included access, the children's voice, cultural imperatives and protection of children—and how each coun-

try is dealing with these issues.

The official program was complemented by a series of 'Children's Voices' videos with children's views about all forms of media. These were from Malaysia, Cambodia, Korea, Philippines, Japan, Australia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Mongolia, Pakistan, India and Thailand. There were delegates from all these countries as well as from Vietnam, Bangladesh, Iran, Lao PDR, Nepal, Pakistan, Brunei, South Africa, New Zealand, the US and the UK.

The main outcome of the summit was the 'Asian Declaration On Child Rights and the Media' (see opposite) agreed to and endorsed by the delegations.

The declaration covers all media for and about children in terms of what it should do and how it should be achieved.



The *Inquiry Into The Future Use of the Sixth Television Channel - Issues Paper* may be obtained by calling Delphine Matthew at the ABA on (02) 9334 7830 or freecall 1800 226 667.

The issues paper is available at ABA's Web site at <http://www.dca.gov.au/aba/6chissue.html>



Debra Richards and the Summit's mascot

Declaration

We, Ministers of Information, Education, Welfare and Social Development from countries of Asia, Senior Officials representing the various governments; executives, researchers, practitioners and professionals from various streams of media; non-government organisations, advocacy groups and concerned individuals gathered in Manila for the Asian Summit on Child Rights and the Media:

- re-affirm our commitment to ensure implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) as ratified in our countries;
- acknowledge the power and responsibility of all forms of media to inform, entertain, educate and influence; and
- recognise their potential for children and for social change.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that;

All media for or about children should:

- protect and respect the diverse cultural heritage of Asian societies;
- be accessible to all children;
- provide for the girl child and counter the widespread discrimination against the girl child; and
- provide for children with special needs, children in especially difficult circumstances, children of indigenous communities and children in situations of armed conflict.

Resolve also, that all media about children should:

- adopt policies that are consistent with the principles of non-discrimination and the best interests of all children;
- raise awareness and mobilise all sectors of society to ensure the survival, development, protection and participation of all children;
- address all forms of economic, commercial and sexual exploitation and abuse of children in the region and ensure that such efforts do not violate their rights, particularly their right to privacy;
- protect children from material which glorifies violence, sex, horror and conflict; and
- promote positive values and not perpetuate discrimination and stereotypes.

Resolve further, that all media for children should:

- be of high quality, made specifically for them, and do not exploit them;
- support their physical, mental, social, moral and spiritual development;
- enable children to hear, see and express themselves, their culture, their languages and their life experiences through media which affirm their sense of self and community, while promoting an awareness and appreciation of other cultures;
- be wide-ranging in genre and content, but not include gratuitous scenes of violence and sex;
- be accessible to them at times when they need it and can use it.

Resolve finally, that governments, media, non-government organisations, the private sector and other local, regional and international agencies should:

- provide media education for children and families to develop their critical understanding of all media forms;
- provide opportunities for children in creating media and to express themselves on a wide range of issues relating to their needs and interests;
- provide sufficient funds and resources to ensure access to and enable the production and dissemination of high quality indigenous materials for and about children as well as capacity building for media practitioners;
- promote regional and international co-operation through the sharing of research, expertise and exchange of materials and programs, networking among governments, non-government organisations, media organisations, educational institutions, advocacy groups and other agencies;
- provide incentives for excellence through awards at regional and national levels;
- provide co-ordinated monitoring mechanisms and encourage self regulation at regional and national levels to ensure the implementation of this Declaration; and
- convene as early as possible broad national multi-sectorial consultations to develop action plans, including professional guidelines consistent with this Declaration.

Adopted 5 July 1996, Asian Summit on Child Rights and the Media, Manila.



Delegates from various countries attending the summit.