



## Television services on the sixth channel

SYDNEY: The ABA has held consultative meetings around Australia as part of its sixth channel inquiry. The meetings addressed funding and structural issues rather than programming proposals.

The ABA is due to report to the Minister for Communications and the Arts, Senator the Hon. Richard Alston, on future options for the sixth channel, by the end of February 1997.

'To meet the Minister's terms of reference and put forward real options for his consideration, the ABA needs much more than indications of support for what people would like to see on the sixth channel,' said Mr Peter Webb, ABA Chairman.



**First consultative meeting as part of the ABA's sixth channel inquiry, held in Sydney on 29 November.**

'The ABA has invited potential operators to come forward and tell us how they will set up the business of running a television service on the sixth channel and what structures they will put in place to ensure that their entity is financially capable of providing a service over the longer term,' he added.

The working paper released by the ABA in October shows that there was very little support for dedicated use of the sixth channel for a single purpose, such as programming specifically for education, arts or children. The majority preference was to see the sixth channel used for a community-type service which would include a mix of programming on education, arts, children and other lifestyle material. What did not emerge was a clear indication of how any operator would set up and operate a sustainable television service on the sixth channel.

## Broadcasting planning seminar

CANBERRA: The ABA's broadcasting planning seminar will be held in Canberra at Rydges Hotel (formerly The Lakeside), Tuesday 25 February 1997.

Presentation topics include:

- allocating community broadcasting licences;
- AM planning for LAPs;
- attitudinal research and broadcasting planning;
- digital radio;
- engineering prediction models for VHF planning;
- filtering needs for digital television;
- FM planning for LAPs;
- FM planning:
  - i) providing a client service, and
  - ii) difficulties arising from the spectrum
- overlap between FM radio and band II television services;
- interference to aeronautical services from VHF services;
- the ITU plan for broadcasting satellite services;
- overview of LAP planning in Australia; planning for the customer; and
- transmitting antenna design.

The registration fee is \$100, Registration forms will be available early in January from the ABA. For more information please contact Lynore Avery (06) 256 2820, Dom McKay (06) 256 2837 or Julia Withers (06) 256 2806 or fax: (06) 253 3277.

## Australian content appeal

CANBERRA: The ABA appeared before the Full Federal Court in Canberra on 1 November, to appeal the Federal Court decision that the Australian Content Standard for commercial television is invalid in so far as it does not include New Zealand programs.

In its Notice of Appeal to the Full Federal Court, the ABA sought a review of the ruling that it was open to the ABA to determine a standard which is consistent with the Protocol on Trade in Services (the Protocol) of the Australia New Zealand Closer Economic Relations - Trade Agreement. The judges reserved their decision.