



Prospective television licensees in Darwin, Griffith and Mildura areas now have until 26 April to apply.

ABA extends application period for TV licences

The ABA has extended the closing date for receipt of applications for new commercial television broadcasting licences in the Darwin, Mildura and Griffith areas.

The application period will now close at midnight on Friday 26 April 1996.

The ABA has decided to extend the period for receipt of applications for the licences in view of applications before the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) for review of the ABA's decisions under s. 73 of the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* not to grant permission to the existing operators in the Darwin, Mildura and Griffith licence areas to operate a second commercial television service in their respective area.

At the hearing on 12 February, the ABA submitted to the AAT that, as a result of a change to the Act which came into force on 5 January 1996, the AAT does not have juris-

isdiction to hear the appeals lodged by the Darwin, Mildura and Griffith licensees. On 16 February, the AAT decided it did have jurisdiction to hear the appeals.

'The ABA has decided to extend the application period for the three new commercial television broadcasting licences to provide greater certainty to the market in relation to the allocation of these licences,' said ABA Chairman Peter Webb.

'The ten week extension should allow for a resolution of the matters presently in the AAT,' he added.

The invitation to apply for a commercial radio broadcasting licence in the Mildura licence area, which was published by the ABA on 13 December 1995, is not affected by these actions. The closing date for applications for this licence remains midnight on Friday 16 February 1996.

Companies interested in applying for any of the available licences must purchase an information package titled *Price-based Allocation of Commercial Broadcasting Licences* from the ABA, price \$50. ☐



Australian regular

Most of the top ten regular television programs watched by all viewers between 1993 and 1994 were Australian produced, the ABA has announced.

These top ranking Australian programs (those airing one or more times weekly) were 'Just Kidding!', 'Sixty Minutes', 'Money', 'Funniest Home Video', 'Looking Good', 'National Nine News' (Sunday), 'Our House', 'A Current Affair', 'Full Frontal: Fast Forward' and 'Getaway'.

The most popular of these programs in 1993 was 'Sixty Minutes', while the light entertainment program 'Just Kidding!' was the most popular regular show watched by all viewers in 1994 (see table).

'We found what people are watching on a regular basis is Australian and usually news and current affairs, drama series and light entertainment programs. This interest in Aussie shows continues the trend described in our last publication on viewing and listening habits, *Audiences and Programs in 1992*,' said Mr Peter Webb, ABA Chairman.

'Viewers' interest in Australian shows once again emerged strongly when you look at both regular programs and top ranking programs overall. Australian sports events and movies both ranked highly overall.'

He said the top five regular programs watched by teenag-

ers (13-17 years of age) for 1993-4 were 'Blossom', 'Hangin' with Mr Cooper', 'Beverly Hills 90210', 'Baywatch' and 'Home Improvement'. The top five regular programs watched by children (5-12 years of age) for 1993-4 were 'Full House', 'Lois and Clark', 'Home Improvement', 'Hangin' with Mr Cooper' and 'Just Kidding!'

The findings are covered in a new ABA publication *Broadcast Audiences in the 90s*, price \$10. Please call (02) 334 7700 for copies.

'This publication provides audience measurement data for Australian television and radio in the years leading up to the introduction of pay TV and other new services,' said Mr Webb.

Research

The publication focuses on the television programs and radio stations which rated the best with audiences in 1993 and 1994, but includes audience data from earlier years where available and considers trends in viewing and listening since the start of the decade.

Television audience data covered includes average time spent viewing, the ten most popular programs, the ten

