



News Update

would lead to a significant risk of an offence against the Act or breach of a licence condition,' he said.

Senator Schacht indicated in his letter that he had also lodged a complaint with the Seven network about the incident, alleging a breach of the television industry code of practice. If Senator Schacht's complaint is not resolved by the network, the ABA can then investigate.

Networked news coverage in the Melbourne area

MELBOURNE: The networking of the news service on Melbourne AM radio services does not constitute a breach of a licence condition, the ABA has decided.

The ABA received five formal complaints relating to commercial radio station's 3AW news service being broadcast on four other Melbourne commercial AM radio stations: 3MP, Magic 693, 3AK and 3UZ.

'The notion of what constitutes an adequate and comprehensive service must be considered in relation to the licence area to be served and the contributions made by all other broadcasting services in the area,' said ABA Chairman, Mr Peter Webb.

'The ABA considers the diversity of services being provided in the Melbourne area contributes an "adequate and comprehensive range of broadcasting services". After careful consideration of the complaints and the information available to it, the ABA therefore does not propose to take any action regarding this matter.'

The ABA assessed this aggregation of news services in terms of a licence condition under the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* which states:

'the licensee will provide a service that, when considered together with other broadcasting

services available in the licence area of the licence (including another service operated by the licensee), contributes to the provision of an adequate and comprehensive range of broadcasting services in that area'.

This condition considers the broadcasting services provided in a market as a whole, taking into account all radio and television services in the licence area. The adequacy and comprehensiveness of the service provided by the licensee must be measured in the context of all broadcasting services available in that licence area. Melbourne enjoys a complementary mix of commercial, community narrow-casting and national radio and television services. In addition to five commercial AM radio stations, Melbourne has four commercial FM radio stations, 14 community radio stations, two high power narrowcasting radio services, five ABC radio services and an SBS radio service. The market also enjoys access to three commercial television services, ABC TV, SBS TV and a trial community television service.

Decision

In considering the complaints, the ABA took into account the fact that there is no obligation on each individual licensee to provide an 'adequate and comprehensive' service, as there was under the former *Broadcasting Act 1942*. Nor is there a requirement for a commercial radio station to provide a news service.

Asian Children's TV Summit

MANILA: An Asian Summit on Child Rights and the Media will be held in Manila from 2 to 5 July 1996 as a follow-up to the World Summit on Children and Television held in Melbourne in March 1995.

Philippines President Ramos has welcomed the Summit to Manila and has pledged his government's support. The summit will examine the range of issues raised in Melbourne in a distinctly Asian context and is looking to adopt the principles of the Children's Charter, a major outcome of the World Summit, into firm commitments by Asian practitioners, broadcasters and policy-makers.

The event is being organised by UNICEF's East Asia and Pacific Office, the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU), the Asia Mass Communication Research and Information Centre and the Philippine Children's TV Foundation.

Issues to be considered include the importance of local indigenous programming and merchandising associated with imported programs.

