



'These are the first community radio broadcasting licences to be offered for these areas under the ABA's new merit-based allocation system,' said Mr Tim O'Keefe, ABA Member.

Free-to-air community broadcasting service licences are allocated on the basis of merit. Under this system, in areas where there is only one applicant for a community broadcasting licence, the ABA need only decide if the applicant merits a licence.

When there is more than one applicant, the ABA may have to choose on the basis of comparative merit. Alternatively, applicants could combine to present a unified application.

'Allocation of new community broadcasting licences has begun for both areas as a result of the ABA's public planning process being finalised in the area,' said Mr O'Keefe. 'The licences are being offered because the planning process identified a demand for three new full time community services that are operated by people living in Mt Isa and York,' he said.

Prospective applicants should obtain a copy of the free application kit including the booklet, *Allocation of Community Broadcasting Licences (Broadcasting Services Bands)*. The booklet also contains the application form, *Application for the Allocation of a Community Broadcasting Licence (Broadcasting Services Bands)*. Copies of the kit are available by calling the ABA's Allocations and Renewals Section on (02) 9334 7700.

Applications for the Mt Isa licences must be received before 5.00 p.m. Friday 14 February 1997 the York licences must be received before 5.00 p.m. Monday 24 February 1997.

## **ABA tests FM frequencies in Bunbury area**

BUNBURY: The ABA conducted FM radio test transmissions from Mt Lennard in the Bunbury area from 22 to 30 December.

The ABA tested three frequencies, 92.5 MHz, 95.7 MHz and 99.7 MHz, to see if there was any interference with the reception of television services on VHF channels 3 and 5. The ABC operates on channel 5 in the Bunbury region and Golden West Network broadcasts on channel 3.

The ABA expects to release the results of its tests early in 1997.

The National Transmission Agency is continuing its tests of ABC radio service

Triple J on low power on FM frequency 94.1 MHz from Mt Lennard.

The part of the spectrum containing television channels 3, 4 and 5 (called Band II) overlaps the FM radio frequency range. This situation presents difficulties in finding channels for new FM radio services which would not cause interference to the reception of these television services.

Since 1987, the quality of television receivers has improved, and there is evidence that some FM channels that were previously not allotted to areas where Band II channels were in use for television services, may now be able to operate with some constraints on radiated power.

## **UNESCO invites ABA to carry out Internet research**

HAWAII: The ABA has been invited by UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) to conduct a pilot study on The Internet and International Regulatory Issues.

'The ABA is delighted to accept this invitation from UNESCO,' said Mr Tim O'Keefe, ABA Member. 'The ABA has consistently taken the view that international cooperation is one of the best ways to tackle the implications of the global phenomenon that is the Internet.'

Mr O'Keefe made the announcement during the 19th Annual Pacific Telecommunications Conference in Hawaii.

The pilot study will:

- identify some of the main features of the on-line environment, particularly as they relate to content of on-line services;
- discuss some recent technical developments such as the Platform for Content Selection (PICS) and the emergence of labelling schemes;
- assess recent developments in Singapore, Malaysia, the United Kingdom and Australia; and
- consider areas which might benefit from international cooperation.

The pilot study, due to be completed in March this year, will also consider the cost and feasibility of a larger comparative study which could be conducted by the ABA later in 1997.

## **Cheez TV**

SYDNEY: Cheez TV, the morning cartoon show on Network Ten, has a new addition to their team. Karin O'Reilly is a National Accreditation Authority for Translators and