



News Update

'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



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**Karin O'Reilly,
Jade Gatt and
Ryan Lappin
on the set of
Cheez TV**



Interpreters (NAATI) Level Three Interpreter for the deaf and hearing impaired. Using Auslan, the official language of the Australian deaf community, she will keep up with the crazy antics of teen hosts, Jade Gatt and Ryan Lappin.

Karin first appeared on Cheez TV early last year, her appearance being inspired by a hearing impaired fan of the show. The response that followed was so overwhelming that the show's producer, decided to invite her back.

Karin, who also teaches at Thomas Patterson School, will interpret every Tuesday morning, bright and early from the 21 January 1997!

Any comments/feedback are welcomed and can be directed to the show's producer on the following:

Jan Stradling
cheeztv@onaustralia.com.au
TTY (02) 212 3254
Cheez TV
PO Box 606
BROADWAY 2007

ABA to participate in Paris forum on young people and the media

PARIS: As a result of the researchers' meeting at the World Summit on Television and Children held in Melbourne in March 1995, the French organisation GRREM (Research Group on the Relationship Between Children and the Media) has organised an International Forum of Researchers to be held in Paris from 21 to 25 April 1997. The title of the Forum is *Young People and the Media, Tomorrow*.

The researchers' meeting at the World Summit brought to light the need for researchers to continually evaluate the state of

their research, in terms of content, methodology and results. The Paris Forum is an opportunity for researchers from around the world to gather and review the state of research on children and the media.

The ABA has been actively involved in preparing for the Forum. The ABA's Chairman, Mr Peter Webb, is part of the International Committee of Patrons, while Mr Gareth Grainger, General Manager Policy and Programs, is part of the International Scientific Committee, formed to define the Forum program. The International Scientific Committee met in Paris on 24 and 25 November 1996 and the program is nearing finalisation.

The ABA has provided details of the Forum to its international research contacts through the International Research Forum (IRF) on Television and Children. The IRF was established at the Melbourne World Summit and is coordinated by the Research Section of the ABA. A bi-annual newsletter is published and the third issue, distributed to the 150 members of the IRF in December 1996, carried a story on the Paris Forum.

The ABA plans to be an active participant in the Paris Forum in a number of ways — as part of an international roundtable of regulators, through discussion of the findings of its extensive research program on children and the media, through sharing its considerable experience with the classification of children's programs and the operation of the children's television standards, and as a key participant in discussions on the operation of the IRF.

UNESCO is undertaking patronage of the Paris Forum. IRF member Elisabeth Auclair, President of GRREM, is organising the Forum and can be contacted for further details by phoning +33 1 44 30 20 01 or faxing +33 1 45 25 73 67.

V-chip — launch delayed in Canada

CANADA: Technical issues look likely to delay the launch of the V-chip in Canada.

The V-chip has been promoted as a means of allowing parents to block the viewing of unsuitable television program content by their children. Invented by Canadian engineer Tim Collings, there has been a strong push for its early implementation in Canada.

However, limited trials conducted on cable in Canada have identified a number of practical issues that need to be resolved before this technology would be effective. The main