



# News Update

## Prime Minister announces an additional appointment for Senator Alston

CANBERRA: The Prime Minister has appointed Senator Alston to be Minister for Communications, the Information Economy and the Arts.

'The information age represents an opportunity to improve all Australians' living standards. This revolution in communications and online technology offers Australians enormous possibilities for the way we live, work, learn and interact,' the Prime Minister said.

'The challenge for the Government is to improve the coordination and management of policies which encourage the community and business to embrace technological improvements.'

The Minister for Industry, Science and Tourism will continue to carry responsibility for industry development and investment issues.

The Government will establish a new National Office for the Information Economy (NOIE) as a separate office in Senator Alston's portfolio, which will draw on extensive private sector expertise.

NOIE will develop, coordinate and overview broad policy relating to:

- the regulatory, legal and physical infrastructure environment for online activities, including facilitating electronic commerce;
- ensuring consistency of Commonwealth positions for international fora; and
- overseeing policies for applying new technology to government administration and information and service provision.


The Government has already started moving to address the issues of user authentication, legislative requirements for facilitating

electronic commerce, copyright issues, information technology outsourcing, the Millennium Bug and easier entry points for government information, compliance reporting and service provisions.

A new Ministerial Council will also be established; chaired by Senator Alston, and including Ministers Tim Fischer, Peter Costello, John Moore, John Fahey, Daryl Williams and the Minister for Administrative Services. The Council is charged with responsibilities for the following whole-of-government action agenda, consulting as appropriate with the States and Territories:

- frame an approach to electronic commerce;
- formulate a comprehensive regulatory and legal framework for information and online services;
- further develop a National Information and Online Services Strategy, outlining public and private sector roles and priorities for action;
- oversee the Government's positions for international fora; and
- continue to design a whole-of-government blueprint for the Commonwealth as lead user of new information and online technology.

Information Policy Advisory Committee (IPAC) will remain in its current form, as a expert policy advisory body reporting to Senator Alston.

These arrangements are a precursor to the Government's response to the Goldsworthy and Information Policy Advisory Committee reports on *The Global Information Economy* and *A national policy framework for structural adjustment within the new Commonwealth of information* respectively. This response will further develop and implement the action agenda, including assisting the development of a National Information and Online Services Strategy. 



Senator Richard Alston

## Temporary transmission of programs by aspirant community broadcasters

For radio and television broadcasts in the period 2 August to 28 February 1997, in order of area served.

Applicant	Area	Frequency	Period	Date signed
<b>Australian Capital Territory</b>				
Ethnic Broadcasters of ACT	Canberra	103.1	12.8.97 - 11.11.97	7.8.97
<b>New South Wales</b>				
2 State Community Radio Inc	Barham	89.1	16.8.97 - 9 11.97	8.8.97
Blacktown City Community Radio Assoc	Blacktown	100.3	23 8 97 - 23 11.97	15.8.97
Macarthur Community Radio	Campbelltown	100.5	2.8.97 - 10.8.97	10.8.97
Cessnock Community Broadcasters Inc	Cessnock	104.5	1.9.97 - 7.9.97	26.8.97



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<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Date signed</b>
<b>NSW cont.</b>				
Echuca Moama Broadcasters Service Inc.	Deniliquin	100.9	17.8.97 - 28.9.97	12.8.97
Radio Upper Murray	Jingellic	88.7	23.8.97 - 21.9.97	15.8.97
Lightning Ridge Community Radio	Lightning Ridge	89.7	9.8.97 - 24.8.97	6.8.97
Martland Community Broadcasters Assoc.	Martland	104.5	22.8.97 - 24.8.97	12.8.97
Port Stephen FM Radio Inc.	Nelson Bay	99.7	1.9.97 - 7.9.97	26.8.97
Port Stephens FM Radio Inc.	Nelson Bay	99.7	4.8.97 - 10.8.97	5.8.97
Newcastle Christian Broadcasters Ltd	Newcastle	99.7	11.8.97 - 31.8.97	7.8.97
Orange Community Broadcasters	Orange	107.5	22.8.97 - 26.10.97	15.8.97
Way Out West Fine Music Inc.	St Marys	88.3	22.8.97 - 16.11.97	15.8.97
Gadigal Information Service	Sydney	96.9	5.9.97 - 4.10.97	28.8.97
Nepean Riverland Community Radio Assoc.	Werrington	100.7	4.8.97 - 14.9.97	4.8.97
<b>Victoria</b>				
Bacchus Marsh Community Radio	Bacchus Marsh	98.5	30.8.97 - 21.9.97	16.8.97
Bacchus Marsh Community Radio	Bacchus Marsh	98.5	1.9.97 - 7.9.97	21.8.97
Bacchus Marsh Community Radio	Bacchus Marsh	98.5	4.8.97 - 10.8.97	5.8.97
Ballarat Gospel Radio	Ballarat	103.9	30.8.97 - 19.9.97	15.8.97
Moonee Valley Radio Inc.	Kensington	99.9	28.9.97 - 7.11.97	26.8.97
Melbourne Gospel Radio	Melbourne	89.9	31.8.97 - 18.9.97	16.8.97
Nu Country Music Radio Inc.	Northcote	94.3	16.8.97 - 31.8.97	13.8.97
Wangaratta Community Radio Assoc.	Wangaratta	105.7	30.8.97 - 7.9.97	16.8.97
Wangaratta Community Radio Assoc.	Wangaratta	105.7	2.8.97 - 10.8.97	4.8.97
West Gippsland Community Radio	Warragul	99.5	16.8.97 - 2.11.97	8.8.97
WYN FM Radio Inc.	Werribee	88.7	15.8.97 - 17.8.97	12.8.97
<b>Queensland</b>				
Dalby Broadcasting Assoc.	Dalby	101.3	23.8.97 - 14.9.97	26.8.97
Christian Air Broadcasters Assoc. Inc.	Eagle Heights	95.7	3.8.97 - 31.8.97	4.8.97
Sunshine Coast Christian Broadcasters Assoc.	Montville	106.5	2.8.97 - 10.8.97	4.8.97
Townsville Christian Broadcasters	Townsville	100.7	21.8.97 - 27.9.97	12.8.97
<b>South Australia</b>				
Encounter FM Community Broadcasters	Victor Harbor	89.3	1.9.97 - 7.9.97	26.8.97
Encounter FM Community Broadcasters	Victor Harbor	89.3	4.8.97 - 10.8.97	4.8.97
Encounter FM Community Broadcasters	Victor Harbor	94.7	4.8.97 - 10.8.97	5.8.97
Encounter FM Community Broadcasters	Victor Harbor	94.7	1.9.97 - 7.9.97	26.8.97
<b>Western Australia</b>				
Heritage FM Inc.	Gosnells	93.7	30.8.97 - 28.2.98	26.8.97