



The ABA has allocated 25 new temporary community broadcasting licences and has invited applications from all other aspirant community broadcasting groups.

# Applications for temporary community radio licences invited

The ABA has finalised its policy on temporary community broadcasting licences and has invited applications from aspirant groups all around the country, including the contested markets of Sydney and Melbourne.

'In areas where there is little or no competition for free spectrum, a temporary community broadcasting licence will allow aspirant groups to conduct full time continuous broadcasts,' said Professor

David Flint. 'In some areas where demand for spectrum amongst aspirant groups is high, there may be a need to share the available spectrum between the groups wishing to use it.'

Temporary community broadcasting licences have replaced the ABA's temporary transmission scheme.

The ABA has allocated 25 temporary community broadcasting licences so far (see table), and expects to allocate licences in up to one hundred markets.

## Temporary community broadcasting licences

A temporary community broadcasting licence authorises the licensee to provide a community broadcasting service in a designated area for a maximum period of 12 months.

Long-term community broadcasting licences will only be allocated where the ABA has completed public spectrum planning in an area and the licence area plan makes spectrum available for a community broadcasting service.

The ABA may grant temporary community broadcasting licences ahead of formal planning. Services provided under a temporary community broadcasting licence will be community broadcasting services and as such must be provided for community purposes; not be operated for profit; be capable of being received by commonly available equipment; and be made available free to the general public.

The statutory licence conditions, programming rules, and remedial and enforcement mechanisms for temporary licensees are the same as those applying to permanent community broadcasting licensees. New licensees will also be subject to the Community Broadcasting Association of Australia Code of Practice.

In allocating a temporary community broadcasting licence, the ABA will be able to specify the times during which broadcasting will be permitted. This will allow the ABA to determine spectrum sharing arrangements in areas where channels must be shared.

There are around one hundred and forty active aspirant community radio broadcasting groups throughout Australia. A significant number of these will benefit from the scheme by being able to provide full-time services. Others will benefit from access to increased air-time.

| Area            | Aspirant community groups                   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>NSW</b>      |   |
| Barham          | Two State Community Radio Inc.              |
| Bourke          | Muda Aboriginal Corporation                 |
| Casino          | Casino's Own Wireless Association Inc.      |
| Cobar           | Cobar Community Radio Inc.                  |
| Deepwater       | Deepwater Community Radio Association Inc.  |
| Dubbo           | Dubbo Christian Broadcasters                |
| Lightning Ridge | Lightning Ridge Community Radio Inc.        |
| Narrabri        | Narrabri Shire Community Radio Inc.         |
| Newcastle       | Newcastle Christian Broadcasters            |
| Queanbeyan      | Queanbeyan Community Radio QBNFM Inc.       |
| <b>Vic</b>      |   |
| Alexandra       | Upper Goulburn Community Radio Inc.         |
| Bacchus Marsh   | Bacchus Marsh Community Radio Inc.          |
| Ballarat        | Ballarat Gospel Radio Inc.                  |
| Echuca          | Echuca-Moama Broadcast Service Inc.         |
| Horsham         | Horsham & District Community PM Radio Inc.  |
| Mansfield       | Mansfield Community Radio Inc.              |
| Wangaratta      | Wangaratta Community Radio Association Inc. |
| <b>Qld</b>      |   |
| Beaudesert      | Beaudesert Community Radio Group Inc.       |
| Brisbane        | Family Radio Inc.                           |
| Dalby           | Dalby Broadcasting Association Inc.         |
| Townsville      | Townsville Christian Broadcasters           |
| Yeppoon         | NAG Radio Broadcasting Association Inc.     |
| <b>SA</b>       |   |
| Mt Gambier      | South East Christian Broadcasters           |
| Port Pirie      | Pirie Community Radio Inc.                  |
| Tanunda         | Barossa Broadcasting Board Inc.             |

## New community radio licence for Albany

The ABA has allocated a new community radio licence to serve Albany, Western Australia.

The licence has been allocated to Albany Community Radio Incorporated. The new service will target the entire Albany community and will broadcast on FM 100.9 MHz. The licensee has 12 months to get the new service up and running.

The ABA received two applications for the licence. Both applications were made available to the public for comment, particularly in regard to whether the proposed services would meet existing and future community needs. The ABA found, on the merits of the applications, that the Albany Community Radio Incorporated application was the stronger of the two.