



ABA allocates community radio licences for Fitzroy Crossing and York, WA

WESTERN AUSTRALIA: The ABA has allocated two community radio broadcasting licences in Western Australia. A licence to serve the Fitzroy Crossing region has been allocated to Wangki Yupurnanupurru Aboriginal Corporation and a licence to serve York has been allocated to York Community Radio Incorporated.

The Fitzroy Crossing service will target the Aboriginal community, and will broadcast on AM 936 kHz. The York service will target the entire York community, and will broadcast on FM 101.3 MHz. The licensees have 12 months to get their new services up and running.

Allocation of the licences follows a process of consultation with the local communities to seek their views on what additional broadcasting services were needed in the regions.

Wangki Yupurnanupurru Aboriginal Corporation has been providing limited programs using the local ABC Regional Radio channel in Fitzroy Crossing since 1990. To contact the new licensee, Wangki Yupurnanupurru Aboriginal Corporation, call Mr David Jagger, Station Manager, on (091) 91 5132.

York Community Radio has been conducting test transmissions in the York region on FM 101.3 MHz (and previously on FM 96.5 MHz) since 1994. To contact the new licensee, York Community Radio Incorporated, call Ms Ruth Morgan, Manager, on (096) 412 424.

ABA invites comment on Broome community radio applicant.

BROOME: The ABA is seeking public comment on an application for a new community radio broadcasting licence in the Broome area of Western Australia.

The ABA has received one application for the Broome licence, from Broome Aboriginal Media Association.

'We're interested in hearing from local people about the application,' said Mr Peter Webb, ABA Chairman. 'We'd particularly like to hear whether the proposed service will meet existing and future community needs.'

The period for comment on the licence application closes on 20 June 1997. The ABA may make comments submitted to it available to the applicant.

Free-to-air community broadcasting service licences are allocated on the basis of merit. Where there is only one applicant, the ABA only

has to decide if that applicant merits a licence. The ABA will assess the application against criteria set out in the Broadcasting Services Act.

Copies of the application are available for perusal at Broome Public Library.

Written comments should be sent to the Manager, Allocations and Renewals section.

Return to previous position by CanWest may not be sufficient to satisfy ABA

SYDNEY: The ABA did not find Canadian company CanWest in breach of the Broadcasting Services Act on the basis of the increase of its economic interest in Ten Group Ltd according to Mr Peter Webb, ABA Chairman.

'A return by CanWest to its previous economic interest level of 57.5 per cent alone, while sufficient to satisfy the Treasurer's orders, made pursuant to the Foreign Acquisitions and Takeovers Act, may not be enough to remedy the breaches of the Broadcasting Services Act identified by the ABA,' Mr Webb said.

Mr Webb was addressing the 'Media and Broadcasting Regime' conference at the Wentworth Hotel, Sydney on 21 May.

In its recent investigation into control of the Ten television network, the ABA found that CanWest had financed the acquisition of more than 37 per cent of shares in the Ten Group Ltd by a number of companies. It also found that CanWest was in a position to exercise control over the votes cast by these companies at a Ten Group Ltd meeting.

'In order to remedy the breaches of the Act identified by the ABA, CanWest must take action so that it no longer has company interests in Ten Group Ltd in excess of 15 per cent and is no longer in a position to control Ten Group Ltd.'

'The ABA will assess any action taken by CanWest in light of all the facts and circumstances which exist at the relevant time. These will include the composition of the board of Ten Group Ltd and the identity and structure of any new shareholders in Ten Group Ltd. The ABA has given CanWest until 3 October this year to rectify the breaches.'

ABA research on young people and music

SYDNEY: The ABA is currently researching the role music plays in the lives of teenagers and young adults.

'The research will inform the ABA's spectrum



planning and licensing processes, especially in relation to community radio services in capital cities where there may be opportunities for youth-orientated services,' Mr Peter Webb, ABA Chairman said.

Mr Webb was addressing the Australian Performing Right Association's 'Radio Content Conference' at the Wharf Theatre, Sydney.

The 'Young Australians and Music' project is a joint research project with the Australia Council and the Australian Recording Industry Association. It will attempt to ascertain whether the needs and interests of young people are being met when it comes to music.

'The objectives of the study include the exploration of young people's attitudes to Australian music and in particular new Australian music, compared to music from overseas; young people's attitudes to music on radio; what a 'youth-orientated' radio station should be like; key issues and concerns in young people's lives; how young people discover new music; and music buying behaviour of young people,' Mr Webb said.

'Presently we are conducting the qualitative stage of the research, which largely involves focus groups with young people aged between 12 and 24. Groups based on similar age, gender and musical taste and interest have been organised. These group discussions in various locations around Australia are exploring young people's attitudes to music, the influences on their choice of music, the way they access and consume it and their level of participation.'

The ABA expects to report its findings towards the end of the year.



ABA becomes industry partner in research on children's television industry

SYDNEY: The ABA has accepted an invitation to be an industry partner in new research into the children's television industry. The study, *Cultural Diversity and Children's Television Industry Development*, is to be conducted by Ms Wendy Keys of Griffith University in Brisbane. Ms Keys holds an Australian Postgraduate Award (Industry) to conduct the research as part of a three year Doctoral program through the Australian Key Centre for Cultural and Media Policy.

Other industry partners in the new study are the Department of Communications and the Arts and the Seven Network. Ms Keys will be conducting the research in collaboration with Ms Debra Richards, the ABA's Director of

Program Services, as well as Ms Dina Browne of the Seven Network and Associate Professor Jennifer Craik and Dr Albert Moran of Griffith University.

Ms Keys' study will focus initially on Australia's annual Festival of Television for Australian Children, which has run since 1995 and is funded by the Department of Communications and the Arts. The Festival is a unique national event which has gained the cooperation of Australia's commercial and public broadcasters. It makes accessible to Australian children award-winning international television programs and offers a valuable resource with which to undertake an analysis of children's use of cross-cultural television.

The study will provide an evaluation of the children's television industry including its national and international needs and potential. It will also develop practical action plans designed to stimulate the production of television for children. With these aims, the study should become an invaluable information source for children's television producers and policy makers.



Senate Select Committee on Community Standards into Computer On-Line Services

BRISBANE/CANBERRA: ABA Manager, On-line Services, Ms Kaaren Koomen, and ABA Manager, Standards, Ms Lesley Osborne attended the public hearings of the Senate Select Committee on Community Standards Inquiry into Computer On-Line Services held in Brisbane and Canberra on 30 April and 5 May.

The ABA presentation outlined its recommendations following last year's investigation into the content of on-line services. These included the development of industry codes of practice, the establishment of an On-Line Labelling Task Force, and the adoption of community education initiatives.

Recent developments in areas of relevance to the committee's terms of reference were also discussed. These included:

- options for managing children's access to unsuitable content;
- the ABA's pilot study commissioned by UNESCO, *Internet and International Regulatory Issues*; and
- reports published by the European Commission's Working Party on Illegal and Harmful Content on the Internet.

Other organisations to make presentations included the Department of Communications