



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