Written submissions must be received by the ABA no later than close of business 3 November 1998.

A public hearing file is available for viewing at the Bathurst City Library.

The Bathurst hearing will be held at 9.00 a.m. on 17 November 1998 at: James Cook International Motor Inn, cnr Brilliant & Stewart Streets, Bathurst.

For more information contact Paul Newton, ABA Licensing, (02) 9334 7700.

Metropolitan radio— submissions

In March and April of this year, the ABA held discussions with existing and aspirant broadcasters in the mainland metropolitan markets and surrounding regional markets.

At the end of April, the ABA invited interested parties to submit evidence in support of their proposals.

A copy of the submissions for all the areas (Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth) is available for inspection at the ABA's Canberra and Sydney offices.

A copy of submissions for all the areas is also available for inspection at the Australian Communications Authority (ACA) offices in Brisbane and Melbourne.

A copy of the Adelaide area and Perth area submissions only is available at the ACA offices in Adelaide and Perth, respectively.

An index of submissions for all areas is on the ABA web site <www.aba.gov.au>.

Family web site

The ABA will launch a web site for families on 27 November, as part of National Online Australia Day.

The family web site will provide parents with information and tools to guide their children towards a rewarding, productive and safe experience on the Internet. It will include links to good fun and educational site for children, suggestions for productive family Internet use, information on technical tools for parents and protective behaviours for children when they are online.

The ABA is developing the site with funding from the National Office of the Information economy. The site has developed from the ABA recommendation for a community education campaign, in its report to the Minister for Communications and the Arts, *Investigation into the Content of Online Services*, in June 1996.

ABA announces new senior management structure

The ABA has completed recruitment action for a number of senior management positions advertised earlier this year. The successful applicants are as follows.

The Director, Planning and Licensing is Ms Jonquil Ritter. Ms Ritter is a solicitor and was previously Manager of the ABA's Codes and Conditions section.

The Director, Technology is Mr Bob Greeney. Mr Greeney is an electrical engineer and was previously the ABA's Director Engineering. He has been involved in developing international recommendations and standards for radiocommunications and broadcasting services through the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and is the Vice-Chairman of the ITU Working Party 10B which deals with sound broadcasting. He is also involved in technical standards work with Standards Australia.

The General Counsel, heading the ABA's Legal and Control Branch will be Mr John Corker. Mr Corker is a solicitor and barrister and was previously the ABA's Legal Manager.

The Director, Policy and Content Regulation will be Ms Andree Wright. Ms Wright is currently the acting Director of the Office of Film and Literature Classification and will take up her position with the ABA on 3 November. She is the head of the OFLC's research program and has been a Senior Classifier and member of the Film Censorship Board. Before joining the OFLC, Ms Wright worked as an historian, a university tutor and a film maker.

The ABA has also appointed Ms Jennifer Stafford as Chief Information Officer. Ms Stafford, a previous Director of Licensing, returns to the ABA from the Australian Film Commission where she worked on developing their future strategic policy and operational directions.

Asia-Pacific Regulatory Roundtable

The Asia-Pacific Regulatory Roundtable held its annual meeting in Seoul on 15–16 September 1998. The meeting was hosted by the Korean Broadcasting Commission and the Korean Cable Communications Commission. Roundtable participants attended from Australia, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand and Singapore.

The meeting addressed a range of matters including: regulating for privacy, balance and ▷

News Update

fairness; the liberalisation of broadcasting industries and foreign investment in programming; foreign and cross-media ownership; the introduction of digital services; and regulatory issues for new media, including online services and the Internet.

The meeting considered the report of the Transborder Working Party (Australia, India, Japan and Korea as Chair) which put forward a set of principles for transborder satellite television broadcasting. The Roundtable meeting adopted these, and agreed that participants seek the endorsement of their respective agencies. The Roundtable also acknowledged that regional cooperation is required to deal with the increased level of transborder satellite television broadcasting, including matters relating to program content and dispute resolution.

Participants at the regulatory roundtable meeting, in Seoul

▦ UNESCO cyberspace meetings

The ABA has participated in two recent UNESCO expert meetings on cyberspace: the Asia–Pacific Regional Experts Meeting on a Legal Framework for Cyberspace in Seoul, Korea, from 8–10 September; and the Experts Meeting on Cyberspace Law held in Monte Carlo, Monaco, from 29–30 September.

The experts at both meetings acknowledged that the Internet is a global medium that requires international cooperation to balance the sovereign rights of countries and the individual rights of citizens. UNESCO recognised this need for international cooperation and proposed a context for developing a framework for the governance of cyberspace.

Ms Phyllis Fong, Manager Policy and Research, attended the Seoul meeting to present a paper prepared by Mr Gareth

Grainger, ABA Deputy Chairman. Countries represented were: Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, United States of America and Vietnam. This meeting addressed a range of matters, including freedom of expression, access to digital information, regulation of global information, intellectual property rights, a cyber community and cultural diversity.

The Seoul meeting recommended for UNESCO's consideration a set of universal principles, based on notions of international and regional cooperation, national responsibility, industry and private sector responsibility, and user empowerment, which countries would need to take into account when developing their respective legal frameworks relating to cyberspace activities.

The recommendation of the Seoul meeting was tabled at the Monte Carlo meeting, which adopted a set of principles similar to those agreed at the Seoul meeting. Mr Grainger, ABA Deputy Chairman, attended the Monte Carlo meeting and tabled an expanded version of his Seoul paper. This paper was commended as the most significant contribution to the workings of the Monte Carlo meeting by the representative of the Director-General of UNESCO, Mr Henrikas Yushkiavitshus.

The Monte Carlo meeting invited the Director-General of UNESCO to promote cyberspace principles relating to international cooperation, freedom of expression, ethics, privacy, encryption, access to information, communication, education, training, participation, universal service, and multiculturalism. The role of industry self-regulation was recognised as highly significant in these processes, as was the need for progressive harmonisation of various national laws.

The Monte Carlo meeting also recommended a plan of action to the Director-General of UNESCO which included:
• the ongoing publication of collective work on the 'international dimensions of cyberspace law';
• the application to cyberspace of each article of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
• the study of the realities, significance and consequences of barriers to access, in particular, privately created barriers driven by market forces;
• an assessment of the adequacy of translation software and necessary steps for increasing the availability and development of improved versions;