



ABA invites applications for Hobart open narrowcasting licence

The ABA has invited applications for a licence to provide a new open narrowcasting radio service to serve Hobart. If more than one application is received for the licence, the licence will be auctioned.

'The ABA is pleased to invite applications for this open narrowcasting radio licence,' said Professor David Flint, ABA Chairman. 'There is a lot of interest in providing open narrowcasting services throughout Australia and, once started, the new service will increase the diversity of services available to people in Hobart.'

The licence will be available for two years, from 25 May 1998 to 24 May 2000. The ABA has set a reserve price of \$4000 for the licence.

Applications for the licence will close at 5.00 p.m. on Wednesday 8 April 1998.

Commercial radio service 7HT Hobart is currently operating on 1080 kHz on the AM band. The channel will become vacant from 25 May 1998 following 7HT's conversion from AM to FM. The licensee of 7HT, Tasradio Pty Ltd, has indicated that it intends to commence its FM service, on 107.3 MHz, on 27 April 1998. Under the terms of the conversion, 7HT may continue to operate its AM transmitter for a period of four weeks from the commencement of its FM service.

Rather than leave the AM channel vacant, the ABA has decided to make it available until the expected date for completion of licence area planning for radio in Hobart.

Consultation: metropolitan radio markets

Meetings with existing metropolitan radio licensees and persons wishing to provide new radio services began in Sydney on 3 March.

During March and April, the ABA will hold a series of meetings with existing and aspirant commercial, community and open narrowcasting service providers in all mainland capital cities and surrounding markets.

The ABA identified frequencies considered to be potentially available in these markets in information booklets released in February and March. Copies are available from the ABA on Freecall 1800 810 241.

The ABA expects to release discussion papers and draft licence area plans for these markets by the end of 1998, and make final decisions on the number and category of new licences in 1999.

ABA Deputy Chairman elected head of international children and the media research committee

Mr Gareth Grainger, ABA Deputy Chairman, has been elected Chairman of the International Scientific Committee of the Young People and the Media Research Forum.

The Committee met in London at the second World Summit on Television and Children, held from 9-13 March.

'The Committee is well advanced in its plans for the next International Research Forum on Young People and the Media,' Mr Grainger said.

The Young People and the Media Research Forum is an international gathering of researchers with an interest in the issues surrounding young people's use of the media and the effect of the media on them. The first Young People and the Media Research Forum was held at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris, France in April 1997. It was attended by delegates from 50 countries, including a number from Asia and the Pacific and Latin America.

The role of the International Scientific Committee is to select the most appropriate themes for and contributors to the forum and the location for the next forum, due to be held in the year 2000.



Gareth Grainger

The idea for the forum was born at the First World Summit on Television and Children in Melbourne in 1995, during an International Research Forum organised by the Research Section of the ABA.

Investigations backlog cleared

The ABA has cleared the backlog in its investigations into complaints made under codes of practice or relating to possible breaches of licence conditions. As at 27 February 1998 there were only 29 matters outstanding—23 of these were less than three months old and six were between three and six months old. In the 18 months up to September 1997 the average time for completing an investigation was four to five months. In the last six months, however, the average completion time has dropped to two months.

Closing date:

**5.00 pm, Wednesday
8 April 1998.**

Anyone interested in applying for the available licence must purchase an information package, *Price-based Allocation of Transmitter Licences for Open Narrowcasting Services* from the ABA, price \$40.

Call: Leanne Smith:
(02) 9334 7824; or
Kevin O'Brien:
(02) 9334 7827.

Submissions

The deadline for submissions is **15 June**.