



Jeffrey Hilton



Dr Robert Horton

## **New part-time associate members for the ABA**

On 1 March, the Minister for Communications, Information Economy and the Arts informed Professor Flint, ABA Chairman, that he had appointed two new part-time associate members, for the general purposes of the ABA. The appointees are Dr Robert Horton, Deputy Chairman Australian Communications Authority, and Mr Jeffrey Hilton, part-time member, Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.

Dr Horton's appointment expires 30 June 2000 and Mr Hilton's appointment expires 22 July 2000.

The Minister also announced the appointment of Mr Gareth Grainger, ABA Deputy Chairman, as a part-time associate member of the ACA. This appointment expires on 22 July 2000.

## **1998 Broadcasting Planning Seminar—an enormous success by all accounts!**

The ABA's second Broadcasting Planning Seminar, on 17 and 18 February 1998, has been declared a resounding success with 180 delegates attending the seminar, workshops and the seminar dinner.

The feedback from delegates and speakers demonstrates that the seminar provides an open forum for people from all sectors of the Australian broadcasting industry to hear about current and emerging developments on policy, technology and related issues. The seminar attracted representatives and broadcasters from commercial, national and community services, subscription and datacasting service providers, and Government who exchanged ideas and views on a wide range of matters of mutual interest.

There was lively discussion about the

development of digital radio and television technology, as well as possible planning assumptions and methodology. While nothing has been set in concrete yet, the next year promises to be very exciting as the digital horizon comes into focus.

Discussions also included an update on the ABA's licence area planning (LAP) process, and there were workshops concerning the major metropolitan radio markets. For further information concerning the planning process, including for metropolitan markets, contact Mr Mike Salloom, Manager Services Planning, on (02) 6257 2821.

Delegates to the dinner raised \$620 for the Royal Flying Doctor Service, prompted by the address by guest speaker Mr Wal Cooper who spoke about the Service in Australia.

## **Policy and strategy consultative forum**

As part of a review of its policy and strategic directions, the ABA held a consultative forum in February and invited participants from industry bodies as well as academics and commentators on broadcasting issues. The aim of the forum was to gather perspectives on the ABA's performance in the five years since the inception of the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* and ideas about the way forward for the ABA in broadcasting regulation.

Participants workshopped three key themes:

- a responsible and accessible voice— issues pertaining to community standards and consumer interests;
- diversity of voice—issues pertaining to ownership and control and allocation of licences; and
- Australians hearing Australian voices—issues concerning Australian content.

Participants welcomed the opportunity to have input and the forum generated some valuable ideas which will inform the ABA's policy and strategy review.

### **Seminar papers**

Copies of the papers presented at the seminar are available, price \$20—contact Ms Sue Van Der Sarden on fax: (02) 6253 3277 or tel: (02) 6257 2357. Ideas for papers, topics, themes or hints for the next seminar are welcome, contact Dominic McKay on (02) 6256 2337. Evaluation forms from the February 1998 seminar are still welcome.

## **Programs granted C or P classification**

Programs granted C or P classification between 13 February and 13 March 1998. Producers interested in submitting programs for classification should contact Liz Gilchrist, Manager ABA Children's Television.

<i>Program title</i>	<i>Origin</i>	<i>Classification</i>	<i>New/renewal</i>	<i>Decision date</i>	<i>Applicant</i>
GOODSPORTS (SERIES 7)	Australia	C	new	12-3-98	WIN Television
WISHBONE (SERIES 2)	USA	C	new	18-2-98	Southern Star Sales

C – children's program, CAD – C Australian drama, P – preschool, PRC – provisional C