



ABA investigation into DMG and AMI

The ABA is investigating the relationship between DMG Regional Radio Pty Ltd (DMG) and Associated Media Investments Pty Ltd (AMI) and other companies in the AMI and DMG groups.

The ABA is investigating whether DMG and AMI are in breach of the ownership and control provisions of the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992*.

Under the Act, a person is prohibited from being in a position to exercise control of a commercial television licence and a commercial radio licence, or more than two commercial radio licences, in the same licence area.

AMI controls television licences in Griffith, NSW, where DMG controls radio licences. DMG controls two radio licences and AMI controls one radio licence in Mildura, Victoria.

Satellite delivered TV in remote and regional WA

The ABA reminds viewers in remote and regional Western Australia that there is no guarantee that a Golden West Network analog signal will continue after 15 May 1998.

On that date, the ABA will review the permission it recently gave to Optus, to retransmit the Golden West Network television service SSW South and South West Western Australia outside its licence area.

If the ABA revokes the permission, it will be a matter for negotiation between Golden West Network and Optus as to whether an analog service continues.

By 15 May, the Golden West service WAW Remote Western Australia will have been

digital for almost six months. In the ABA's view, this is an adequate period for those viewers who wish to receive the WAW signal by satellite to purchase the appropriate equipment, that is, a Scientific Atlanta set top box.

'The ABA is the federal regulator representing the public interest in broadcasting,' said Professor David Flint, ABA Chairman. 'The ABA made the decision to permit Optus to retransmit because it is concerned to ensure that the interests of viewers are adequately addressed when changes are made in the delivery of services.'

'The ABA is concerned that there should be an adequate period of transition but it is ultimately the responsibility of viewers to obtain the necessary equipment.'

'The ABA has a limited role in this matter. There is now a competitive environment for satellite broadcasting in remote Western Australia. Decisions by broadcasters about which satellite carrier to use are commercial decisions outside the control of the ABA. These commercial decisions may result in viewers needing different or additional equipment to receive all available television services, include WAW, the ABC and the forthcoming second commercial service,' Professor Flint added.

The Federal Government has offered to provide \$750 towards the cost of purchasing new equipment. Further information about this offer can be obtained by calling the Networking the Nation Secretariat on 1800 674 058 (freecall).

The ABA is currently investigating whether the needs of Western Australian regional viewers have been adequately catered for during the conversion from analog to digital satellite broadcasting. The ABA invites submissions from members of the public on this issue.

Submissions:

Mark submissions:

'Satellite TV in Western Australia'

Send submissions to:

ABA
PO Box Q500
Queen Victoria Building
NSW 1230

Tel: (02) 9334 7700 or
Freecall 1800 22 6667.

Fax: (02) 9334 7799

Email: info@aba.gov.au

Closing date

Close of business

Wednesday

6 May 1998.

Programs granted C or P classification

Programs granted C or P classification between 13 March and 2 April 1998. Producers interested in submitting programs for classification should contact Liz Gilchrist, Manager, ABA Children's Television, on (02) 9334 7840.

Program title	Origin	Classification	New/ renewal	Decision date	Applicant
CROCADOO (SERIES 2)	Australia	CAD	new	30-3-98	Energie Entertainment
MU LAN	Australia	CAD	new	16-3-98	Burbank Animation Studios Pty Ltd
POCKET DRAGON ADVENTURES	USA	C	new	30-3-98	BKN International
SKIPPY - ADVENTURES IN BUSHTOWN	Australia	PRC	new	16-3-98	Yoram Gross Film Studios Pty Ltd

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