



News Update

Temporary community radio services in Newcastle

The ABA has decided to allocate a temporary community broadcasting licence in Newcastle to Visually Impaired Persons Radio. The licence will commence on 2 August 1999 and will run until 30 November 1999.

The frequency Visually Impaired Persons Radio will broadcast on (99.7 MHz on the FM band) is presently being used by Newcastle Christian Broadcasters for its temporary community broadcasts. There are no other unused frequencies in Newcastle that can be used for this purpose that will not cause interference to existing broadcasting and communications services.

'Under the law, we cannot discriminate between temporary community broadcasters in allocating time to them, regardless of how long they have been broadcasting, nor can we refuse to license new aspirant broadcasters that satisfy the eligibility requirements,' said Professor David Flint, ABA Chairman.

In markets where the number of eligible applicants for temporary community broadcasting licences exceeds the available channels, applicants must share.

'The application from Visually Impaired Per-

sons Radio satisfies the ABA's eligibility requirements for a temporary community broadcaster,' said Professor Flint.

'Newcastle Christian Broadcasters have enjoyed the opportunity to provide temporary community broadcasts on this frequency on a continuous basis for almost two years. Visually Impaired Persons Radio has waited 12 months for this opportunity to provide a temporary service,' he said.

'Visually Impaired Persons Radio will provide a temporary service that should be of great benefit to people who have a visual impairment and are unable to read print media.'

AGORA '99

The European Children's Television Centre hosted AGORA '99 in Thessaloniki, Greece from 25 to 28 June as a preparatory stage for the Third World Summit on Media for Children.

AGORA '99 included presentation of initiatives from around the globe on children's audiovisual content. A program market place took place in conjunction with AGORA. Mr Gareth Grainger, ABA Deputy Chairman and

Temporary community broadcasting licences

Issued during June 1999

| <i>Licence area</i> | <i>Area served</i> | <i>Frequency</i> | <i>Period</i> | <i>Issue date</i> |
|--|-----------------------|------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| New South Wales | | | | |
| Free Broadcasting Inc. (FBI) | Sydney | 96.9 | 1-7-1999 to 31-8-1999 | 28-6-1999 |
| Gadigal Information Service Aboriginal Corporation | Sydney | 94.5 | 21-6-1999 to 31-7-1999 | 18-6-1999 |
| Holiday Coast Community Radio Inc. | Coffs Harbour | 107.9 | 5-6-1999 to 24-8-1999 | 3-6-1999 |
| Nimmitabel Advancement Group Inc. | Cooma/Snowy Mountains | 96.9 | 1-7-1999 to 30-3-2000 | 29-6-1999 |
| Lightning Ridge Community Radio | Lightning Ridge | 89.7 | 14-6-1999 to 13-2-2000 | 4-6-1999 |
| Manning Great Lakes Christian Broadcasters Inc. | Taree | 103.3 | 1-7-1999 to 8-11-1999 | 29-6-1999 |
| Victoria | | | | |
| 3NRG Inc. | Melbourne/Sunbury | 99.4 | 5-6-1999 to 19-9-1999 | 1-6-1999 |
| New Gen Radio Inc. | Melbourne | 91.5 | 14-6-1999 to 19-9-1999 | 8-6-1999 |
| Nu Country Music Radio Inc. | Melbourne | 94.9 | 21-6-1999 to 25-7-1999 | 17-6-1999 |
| RMIT Student Union Student Radio Association Inc. | Melbourne | 94.9 | 7-6-1999 to 20-6-1999 | 3-6-1999 |
| South Eastern Indigenous Media Association | Melbourne | 90.7 | 5-7-1999 to 18-7-1999 | 28-6-1999 |
| Queensland | | | | |
| Brisbane Interactive Radio | Brisbane | 97.3 | 1-7-1999 to 20-8-1999 | 24-6-1999 |
| Western Australia | | | | |
| Soncity FM Inc. | Geraldton | 97.3 | 1-7-1999 to 30-4-2000 | 28-6-1999 |