



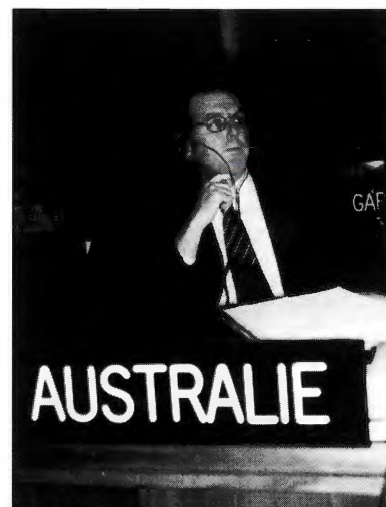
News Update

minimum licence fee of \$45 000 per half hour.

Producers raised concerns at the ABA's children's television policy forum and the recent SPAA (Screen Producers Association of Australia) annual conference that, since its introduction the requirement has replaced a 'cap' on licence fees, rather than operated as a minimum. This is preventing access to Australian Film Finance Corporation funding, which requires a licence fee of \$55 000 per half hour.

The ABA has commenced an investigation and has written to interested parties requesting information. Responses are expected by early February. The findings of the investigation will enable the ABA to consider whether the rule should be varied ahead of the scheduled 2001 review of the Australian Content Standard.

The minimum licence fee requirement was introduced in March 1999, when the ABA was required to amend the Australian Content Standard to ensure the standard treated New Zealanders and New Zealand programs no less favourably than Australians and Australian programs. The purpose of the requirement was to prevent secondary market programs from New Zealand displacing Australian children's drama programs on the basis of cost alone.



World Summit of Audiovisual Regulators

Gareth Grainger, ABA Deputy Chairman at the UNESCO/CSA/CRTC World Summit of Audiovisual Regulators in Paris, from 30 November – 1 December 1999.

The Conference was opened by Mr Matsuura, the new UNESCO Director-General, and Madame Catherine Trautmann, French Minister for Culture and Communications. Mr Grainger presented the keynote paper at the conference: the 1999 Spry Memorial Lecture, 'Broadcasting, Co-regulation and the Public Good'. The Conference brought 60 countries and their audiovisual regulators together for the first time.

A summary of the key points and highlights of the summit is on the ABA web site: www.aba.gov.au.

C or P programs

Programs granted C or P classification between 20 November 1999 and 14 January 2000. Producers interested in submitting programs for classification should contact Nadia Mencinsky on (02) 9334 7840.

Program title	Origin	Class	New /renewal	Decision date	Applicant
BEAKMAN'S WORLD (Series 4)	USA	C	new	24-11-99	Network Ten
MAGIC SCHOOL BUS, THE (Series 2, episodes 14-26)	USA	C	new	15-12-99	Network Ten
OUTWARD BOUND	Australia	PRC	new	1-12-99	Crawford Productions

C – children's program, PRC – provisional C