



Investigation into suitability of WILD FM, FREE FM

The ABA has commenced an investigation into whether Sydney Youth Radio Inc. and Sydney Gay and Lesbian Broadcasting Inc. are suitable community broadcasting licensees or suitable applicants for a community broadcasting licence. The investigation will also examine whether Sydney Youth Radio Inc. or Sydney Gay and Lesbian Broadcasting Inc. are operated for profit or as part of profit making enterprises.

Sydney Youth Radio Inc. is an applicant for a Sydney-wide community radio licence made available by the ABA. It has conducted temporary community broadcasts under the station identifier WILD FM. Sydney Gay and Lesbian Broadcasting Inc. is also an applicant for a Sydney-wide community radio licence made available by the ABA. It has conducted temporary community broadcasts under the station identifier FREE FM.

The ABA has issued notices to Sydney Youth Radio Inc. and Sydney Gay and Lesbian Broadcasting Inc. requiring the provision of documents and other information pursuant to section 173 of the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992*, by 25 August 2000.

All the information received by the ABA pursuant to these notices may, where relevant, be used by the ABA as part of the community broadcasting licences allocation process for the Sydney licence area being conducted pursuant to Part 6 of the Act.

Applications invited for community radio licence in Narrabri, NSW

The ABA has invited applications for the community radio broadcasting licence in the Narrabri area of New South Wales. Deadline for the applications for the licences was 4 August 2000.

The ABA previously commenced an allocation process for a community broadcasting licence in Narrabri in June 1999. However, the ABA decided not to allocate the licence at that time due to concerns it held regarding the capacity of the two applicants to satisfy the mandatory allocation criteria.

The ABA is now satisfied that the two previous applicants, Narrabri Shire Community Radio (NSCR), and Kaputar FM Community Radio Inc. (Kaputar), have taken appropriate steps to satisfy the allocation criteria, and to resolve the dispute that existed between them. These steps

have included NSCR removing any impediments to a merger that existed in its constitution, and the NSCR constitution has been amended to satisfy the ABA's requirements for a community broadcasting service. An agreement has been reached to merge the two groups.

From 11 August, copies of any applications received will be placed in the Narrabri Branch Library, 8 Doyle Street Narrabri. The ABA welcomes written submissions from the public and any other interested party in relation to the applications received.

Applicants and others who may submit information in relation to the allocation of licences, should be aware that the ABA might place these materials on a public file, on the ABA's web site or provide copies to other applicants.

Olympic broadcasting licence to Koori Radio

The ABA has issued a temporary community broadcasting licence to Gadigal Information Service Aboriginal Corporation (Koori Radio) to broadcast on 94.5 MHz in Sydney for the period 1 September – 8 October 2000.

The application was supported by the Community Broadcasting Association of Australia, the National Indigenous Media Association of Australia and the National Indigenous Radio Service. The service will provide an Olympics broadcast targeted to the Aboriginal community.

Koori Radio is one of 18 applicants for three Sydney-wide community radio licences made available by the ABA.

Only one Sydney-wide channel (94.5MHz on the FM band) will be available during the Olympic period for temporary community broadcasting. The other channel that has been used for temporary community broadcasts recently — 96.9 MHz — has not been available since 31 July 2000 because of the allocation of a commercial radio licence that will use the frequency.

The ABA has decided to make 94.5 MHz available to aspirant community broadcasters in Sydney at least until 31 December 2000. For the periods 1 August – 31 August and 9 October – 31 December, first priority will be given to those applicants for the Sydney-wide community radio licences that have not previously broadcast on a Sydney-wide channel.

Submissions on applications

should be lodged with the ABA by 5.00 p.m. on Friday 25 August 2000.