



IN THE NEWS

# Applications invited for Melbourne, Geelong and Colac community radio licences

The ABA has invited applications for three new Melbourne-wide community radio licences and six new Melbourne sub-metropolitan community radio licences. The sub-metropolitan licences are to serve the areas of Bacchus Marsh, Camberwell, Melbourne City, Sunbury, Waverley and Werribee. In addition, applications are sought for two community radio licences to serve the Geelong area and one new community radio licence to serve Colac.

'Allocation of new commu-

nity broadcasting licences has begun in Melbourne, Geelong and Colac as a result of the ABA's public planning process being finalised in these areas,' said Professor Flint. 'The planning process identified a demand for community services that are operated by people living in these communities.'

Free-to-air community broadcasting service licences must be allocated on the basis of merit. Key factors the ABA will consider include the needs and interests of the community, and the applicant's capacity to provide the proposed service.

The ABA expects that the Melbourne-wide and the sub-metropolitan licences will be highly contested and encourages applicants to consider combining to present unified applications.

The ABA welcomes written submissions from members of the public in relation to the applications received.

Copies of any letters of support included with applications and subsequent support letters received by the ABA will not be placed on the ABA's web site or in suburban libraries. However, statistical data in the letters will be placed for public perusal on its web site.

## Applications

Prospective applicants should obtain a copy of the free information booklet, *Allocation of Community Broadcasting Licences (Broadcasting Services Bands): Guide to applying for a licence*. The booklet also contains the application form, Form ABA 32, *Application for the Allocation of a Community Broadcasting Licence (Broadcasting Services Bands)*.

For copies of the booklet and information about how to apply for a community broadcasting licence, call the ABA's Licensing Section on (02) 9334 7700. The booklet is also on the ABA web site at: [www.aba.gov.au/what/broplan/community\\_services.htm](http://www.aba.gov.au/what/broplan/community_services.htm).

## Closing date for applications

Applications must be lodged with the ABA by **5.00 p.m. Friday 24 November 2000**.

## Submissions

From 8 December 2000, copies of all applications received will be placed for public perusal on the ABA's web site at: [www.aba.gov.au/what/broplan/community\\_applications/melbourne/index.htm](http://www.aba.gov.au/what/broplan/community_applications/melbourne/index.htm).

## Submissions closing date

Submissions should be lodged with the ABA by **5.00 p.m. Friday 12 January 2001**. Submissions can be lodged via email: [info@aba.gov.au](mailto:info@aba.gov.au).

## To view the applications:

Copies of all applications received will also be available for public perusal at these local public libraries:

- State Library of Victoria**, 328 Swanston Street, Melbourne;
- Camberwell Library**, 360 Camberwell Road, Camberwell;
- Sunbury Library**, 36 Macedon Street, Sunbury;
- Glen Waverley Branch Library**, 112 Kingsway, Glen Waverley;
- Werribee Library**, Corner of Heaths and Derrimut Roads, Werribee;
- Geelong City Library**, 49 Little Malop Street, Geelong;
- Central Highlands Regional Library**, Main Street, Bacchus Marsh;
- Colac Library**, 99 Gellibrand Street, Colac.