



# News Update



Participants at the fifth Regulatory Roundtable, Wellington, NZ.

- public service broadcasting versus public broadcasting service.

The ABA was represented by Professor Flint, and Phyllis Fong, Manager Policy/Research. They informed the Roundtable of progress in regulatory responses in Australia, including:

- progress regarding the Asia-Pacific Regulatory Roundtable's transborder satellite television broadcasting principles, and in particular their incorporation as guidelines for international broadcasting services;
- the enactment of the *Broadcasting Services Amendment (Digital Television and Datacasting) Act 2000*, which provides the legislative framework for datacasting services; and
- the findings of the commercial radio inquiry and remedial action that has been proposed.

The next Roundtable will be hosted by the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission.

On expiry of the memorandum of understanding between the Singapore Broadcasting Authority and the ABA in June 2000, both parties were keen to see the continuation of their cordial relations. Consequently, the the Singapore Broad-



Mr Niam Chiang Meng, SBA Chairman, and Professor Flint after signing the memorandum of understanding, Wellington, NZ.

casting Authority and the ABA renewed their relations by signing a memorandum of understanding on 1 October 2000. Both parties took advantage of the presence of the chairs of the two agencies in Wellington and the signing took place before the commencement of the Roundtable.

## Conference report: National Indigenous Media Association of Australia Conference

Jonquil Ritter, Director, Planning and Licensing and Rick O'Brien, Manager, Licensing attended part of the National Indigenous Media Association of Australia Conference which was held in Broome from 16 to 20 October 2000. Here is a brief report.

We gave a presentation on current planning and licensing issues as well as outlining some keys rights and responsibilities of community broadcasters. We then took questions from the floor.

Key discussion points during the days of the conference we attended were:

- the problems of the limited resources indigenous broadcasters have;
- the relationship between NIMAA and the National Indigenous Radio Service;
- the feasibility study that is being undertaken into a National Indigenous Broadcast Service;
- the recent National Indigenous Media Olympic Project broadcast from the Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association studios; and
- the planned production of a definitive Australian Indigenous Almanac.

Our attendance at the conference, visits to Goolari TV and Radio and the many informal discussions we had in Broome proved to be enormously informative. We are hoping to continue with an ongoing successful and productive relationship with NIMAA.



Delegates at the NIMAA conference table