



The ABA has allocated new community radio licences for Cunnamulla, in south west Queensland and Geelong, Victoria.

New community radio licences for QLD and Victoria

Cunnamulla, QLD

The ABA has allocated a new community radio licence for Cunnamulla, in south west Queensland.

The licence was allocated to Cunnamulla Aboriginal Media Association (Radio 4TOF) on 1 October 2001.

Cunnamulla Aboriginal Media Association will broadcast its service on 99.7 MHz on the FM band. Radio 4TOF has been broadcasting on this frequency for some time under a temporary licence and was the only applicant for the permanent licence.

'The proposed service is committed to representing the Aboriginal community of Cunnamulla,' said Professor David Flint, ABA Chairman. 'The applicant satisfied the ABA that it would meet the needs of the Aboriginal community as well as providing an essential community service for the entire community by providing local information.'

The ABA allocated this licence following community consultation during the licence area planning process and during the assessment process.

The new community radio service will complement Cunnamulla's existing radio services, including two national radio services (4ABC RN and 4CH) and one commercial service (4VL).

Geelong, Victoria

The ABA has also allocated a new community radio licence for Geelong, Victoria, to the Vision Australia Foundation, an organisation servicing the print handicapped.

The service will broadcast on 99.5 MHz on the FM band. Southern Victoria Community Radio Inc was broadcasting on that frequency under a temporary community broadcasting licence that expired on 30 September 2001. The permanent community radio broadcasting licence

commenced on 1 October 2001.

The ABA allocated this licence following community consultation during the licence area planning process and during the assessment process. broadcasting services were needed in their area.

Two applications were assessed for the community radio licence. Vision Australia Foundation proposed to serve the print handicapped community. Southern Victoria Community Radio Inc proposed to serve the wider community in Geelong with a particular focus on a country music format.

The ABA decided to allocate the Geelong licence to Vision Australia Foundation as it found that the unique needs of the print handicapped community for access to the printed word indicates a greater and deeper need for a community radio service compared to the needs of country music enthusiasts.

'The proposed service will add to the range and diversity of services in the Geelong area,' said Professor David

Flint, ABA Chairman. 'The applicant satisfied the ABA it would meet the existing and perceived future needs of the print handicapped community in the Geelong area.'

'Although the decision will be disappointing for Southern Victoria Community Radio Inc, the ABA made every effort to fully consider the claims of the two applicants,' said Professor Flint. 'Southern Victoria Community Radio Inc has had a strong presence on-air and the ABA acknowledges the contribution made to community radio by all of the volunteers involved in that service.'

