



News Update

C and P programs

Programs granted C and P classification between 22 August and 20 September 2001. Producers interested in submitting programs for classification should contact the ABA's Children's Television section on (02) 9334 7700.

Program title	Origin	Class	New/ renewal	Decision dated	Applicant
OCEAN STAR	Australia	PRC	new	20/09/200	BBHTV Pty Ltd
SHORT CUTS	Australia	CAD	new	13/09/200	Burberry Productions Pty Ltd
SOUTHERN CROSS	Australia	CAD	new	20/09/200	Taylor Media

CAD – C Australian drama program, PRC – provisional C program, Class. – Classification

Commercial radio broadcasts of political matter

The ABA has reminded all commercial radio licensees of their responsibilities when broadcasting political matter, in light of the impending Federal Election.

In particular, the ABA has drawn commercial radio licensees' attention to the commercial radio standards that have come into force since the last Federal Election. For all commercial radio licensees, there are now additional requirements that may apply when broadcasting political matter at the request of another person, under the Commercial Radio Codes of Practice, the *Broadcasting Services (Commercial Radio Advertising) Standard 2000* (the Advertising Standard) and the *Broadcasting Services (Commercial Radio Current Affairs Disclosure) Standard 2000* (the Disclosure Standard).

All broadcasts of political matter at the request of another person must be followed by the required particulars, known as the 'tag'. This obligation forms part of the conditions on every broadcasting licence and applies whenever political matter is broadcast, and is not confined to election periods.

Breach findings have been made in recent years against radio (and television) licensees both during election periods and during non-election periods for the broadcast of untagged political matter.

'The Advertising Standard would apply where political matter is broadcast on commercial radio

at the request of another person, in the form of an advertisement. It must be clear from the broadcast that the political matter is an advertisement, and it must not be presented in the guise of a current affairs segment, opinion piece or any other program,' said Professor David Flint, ABA Chairman.

'Licensees have been reminded that the obligations arising from these sources are cumulative, in that licensees are required to comply with ALL of them. Licensees are not entitled to ignore one while honouring another. For example, material broadcast pursuant to a commercial agreement which is within the scope of the Disclosure Standard may also require a 'tag' if it is political matter,' said Professor Flint.

A separate obligation on licensees who broadcast election matter in election periods is the requirement to give reasonable opportunities for the broadcast of election matter to certain other political parties contesting the election. Compliance with this requirement is a licence condition.

Complaints regarding alleged breaches of the political matter provisions of the Act and the Commercial Radio Standards can be made directly to the ABA. The ABA will investigate all such complaints.

The commercial radio codes and standards and further information on the complaints process are available from the ABA's website at: www.aba.gov.au or by calling 1800 22 6667.

