

News Update

Temporary community broadcasting licences

Allocated in September 2001

Area served	Licensee	Frequency	y Period	Date allocated
NSW				
Murwillumbah	Cool FM Community Radio Association Inc.	101.3	01-10-2001 to 28-2-0202	14-9-2001
Blacktown	Western Community-Radio Association Inc.	99.9	04-10-2001 to 31-10-2001	19-9-2001
QLD				
Beaudesert	Beaudesert Community Radio Group Inc.	101.5	01-10-2001 to 31-7-2002	17-9-2001
SA				
Port Pirie	Pirie Community Radio Broadcasters Inc.	105.9	02-10-2001 to 01-10-2002	18-9-2001
VIC				
Gippsland-Warragul	West Gippsland Community Radio Inc.	99.5	29-9-2001 to 31-3-2002	26-9 2001
Horsham	Horsham & District Community FM Radio Inc.	96.5	30-9-2001 to 29-9-2002	13-9-2001
Melbourne	Central Melbourne F.M. Inc.	90.7	15-9-2001 to 14-10-2001	03-9-2001
Melbourne	Hitz FM Broadcasters Inc.	89.9	04-10-2001 to 6-11-2001	18-9-2001
WA				
Armadale	Heritage FM Inc.	93.7	01-10-2001 to 28-2-2002	18-9-2001
Kalamunda	Kalamunda Community Radio Inc.	101.1	01-10-2001 to 28-2-2002	18-9-2001

Inquiry into infomercials called

On 28 August 2001, the NSW Minister for Fair Trading, the Hon John Watkins, MP, asked the Fair Trading Advisory Council (FTAC) to inquire into, and provide advice and recommendations about, the use of television infomercials and direct-response advertising in promoting the sale of products to consumers.

The inquiry arose from increasing concerns that consumers may be particularly susceptible to deceptive and other unfair practices that can be associated with this method of marketing.

The Terms of Reference for the FTAC Infomercial Inquiry are:

• Is the existing legislative framework, including the *Fair Trading Act 1987* (NSW), adequate to deal with the activities of promoters who use infomercials to market their products and services, and the broadcasters of infomercials?

• Should relevant codes of practice be amended in any way in respect of infomercials?

• Should there be specific disclosure requirements for marketers, promoters and broadcasters in respect of the promotion of products and services by the use of infomercials or direct-response television?

• Are there any other matters that should be brought to the attention of the minister in respect of infomercials?

FTAC has called for submissions, due in November 2001, and anticipates releasing a discussion paper (outlining the main issues in relation to the inquiry).

It also plans to hold public forums in regional and metropolitan areas of NSW during November 2001. FTAC is expected to report to the Minister for Fair Trading in early 2002.

Dates and venues of the metropolitan and regional forums will be advertised in the media.

The Department of Fair Trading website at <u>www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au</u> also has information about the inquiry.

Submissions

Submissions to the inquiry can be sent to: The Infomercial Inquiry Secretariat, PO Box 972 PARRAMATTA NSW 2124 Tel: (02) 9895 0677 or (02) 9895 0363 Fax: (02) 9895 0535 or (02) 9895 0666 Email: *mjeffrey@fairtrading.nsw.gov.au*

2

ABA Submission to OFLC Classification Guidelines Review

In August 2001, the Office of Film and Literature Classification (OFLC) called for submissions on its discussion paper *A Review of the Classification Guidelines for Films and Computer Games*.

The discussion paper calls for submissions on five major issues:

• a uniform, national approach to the classification of entertainment media,

#