



including a single set of classification standards;

- a single, consistent set of classification symbols and categories;
- new classification concepts, definitions and explanations;
- the clarity, appropriateness and adequacy of the proposed classification standards; and
- other related issues.

In its submission, the ABA supports a uniform, national approach to the classification of entertainment media. A consistent approach to the classification of broadcast and online material is seen as most likely to provide consumers with the advice they need to make informed choices about viewing requirements for themselves and for those in their care.

Currently, the existing OFLC classification guidelines are incorporated into the codes of practice governing online content, the ABC, SBS and the subscription television industry.

For similar reasons, the ABA also supported a single set of classification symbols and the wide use of consumer advice notices. A uniform, national approach to classification and to classification symbols will reduce the likelihood of inconsistency and confusion, and will promote better consumer choice.

The ABA also supports a move to an age-based approach to classification categories as a means of providing greater guidance to viewers on program content and suitability, particularly if it is combined with systematic provision of consumer advice for all categories above G.



Pay TV licences allocated to TransACT Broadcasting Pty Ltd

The ABA has allocated six subscription television broadcasting licences to TransACT Broadcasting Pty Limited (TransACT).

TransACT has indicated that it proposes to deliver a range of programs including subjects such as news, documentaries, travel, information, children's programs, cartoons, and sport.

Unlike apparatus licences or other service delivery permits, these licences do not have geographical limitations. Therefore, a service

licence is valid throughout Australia as long as the programming on that service is the same in all areas of reception. Where the service differs in a location, a separate service licence is required.



Frequency variation for ABC 5MG Mount Gambier

The ABA is proposing to change the frequency and transmission power of AM national radio service 5MG in Mount Gambier to improve its coverage.

The ABA proposes to change the frequency of 5MG from 1584 kHz to 1476 kHz. This will allow the service to increase its transmission power from 200 W to 500 W.

The proposal is contained in a revised preliminary view on national radio services for Mount Gambier released during October 2001.

The draft licence area plans for the South East South Australia region (including Mount Gambier and Murray Bridge) are part of the ABA's planning for Group 5 markets, expected to be concluded by the end of the year.

Further information

The SE South Australia draft licence area plans and explanatory notes are available at the ABA's web site at www.aba.gov.au/radio/services/planning/laps/sa/sesa/index.htm, or by calling Freecall 1800 810 241, and are available for viewing at local libraries.

Submissions on the revised preliminary view were due by 2 November 2001.

