

News Update

Variations to program standards

On 26 April 2001, the ABA approved minor variations to the Children's Television Standards and the Broadcasting Services (Commercial Radio Current Affairs Disclosure) Standard 2000.

The ABA varied the notification and displacement provisions of the Children's Television Standard (CTS) 3. The standard now includes:

- 1.14 days rather than one month period for notification to vary a program schedule;
- 2.72 rather than 48 hour period to notify ABA of failure to broadcast in accordance with a program schedule; and
- 3. 'unforeseen occurrence, cancellation or early completion' of an event of national importance or major sporting event as reasons for licensees failing to broadcast in accordance with their program schedules.

The ABA also varied the Broadcasting Services (Commercial Radio Current Affairs Disclosure) Standard 2000 to correct four minor errors.

Public comment was sought on the proposed variations to the standards. Four submissions were received which supported changes to CTS 3. There were no submissions in relation to the other variation.

The Children's Television Standards and

Broadcasting Services (Commercial Radio Current Affairs Disclosure) Standard 2000 are on the ABA website at www.aba.gov.au.

Court orders in the Melbourne licence area plan judgment

Two high power open narrowcasters challenged decisions made by the ABA in the determination of the radio licence area plan for Melbourne, released in June 2000. (For more background, go to *ABA Update* no.96 March 2001, pp.6–7 and *ABA Update* no. 92 October 2000 p.6.)

In its decision, the Federal Court declared that the Melbourne licence area plan was invalid in so far as it provided that:

- (a) a commercial radio broadcasting service is to be available on frequency 1116 kHz; and (b) a community broadcasting service is to be available on frequency 1503 kHz.
- The Court ordered that the operation of this declaration be stayed for 48 hours and that the applicants [Nezville and Stamoulis] pay four fifths of the respondent's (ABA) costs.

The effect of the declaration and orders is that the only part of the licence area plan which was adversely affected by the judgment were the two frequencies mentioned. The remainder of the licence area plan remains intact and valid. The

Temporary community broadcasting licences

Allocated in March 2001

Area served	Licensee F	requency (N	MHz) Period	Date allocated
New South Wa	lles			
Blacktown	Blacktown City Community Radio SWR-FM			
	Association Inc.	99.9	1-4-2001 to 23-6-200	28-3-2001
Hornsby	Hellenic Australian Radio Inc. (Hornsby)	100.1	1-4-2001 to 28-4-200	27-3-2001
Penrith	Nepean Riverlands Community Radio Association I	nc. 100.7	1-4-2001 to 31-5-200	27-3-2001
Penrith	Way Out West Fine Music Inc.	100.7	1-4-2001 to 31-5-200	27-3-2001
Victoria				
Melbourne	Student Youth Network Inc.	94.9	10-3-2001 to 8-4-200°	9–3-2001
Melbourne	Central Melbourne F.M. Inc.	90.7	12-3-2001 to 8-4-200	8-3-2001
Melbourne	Kiss FM Inc.	89.9	2-4-2001 to 6-5-200	28-3-2001
Melbourne	New-Gen Radio Inc.	90.7	9-4-2001 to 22-5-200	28-3-2001
Queensland				
Boonah	Scenic Rim Broadcasting Association Inc.	100.1	17-3-2001 to 16-3-2002	15-3-2001
Brisbane	Greater Brisbane Radio Broadcasters Inc.	97.3	3-4-2001 to 30-4-200	1 28-3-2001
Charleville	Bidjara Media & Broadcasting Company Ltd	105.7	7-3-2001 to 6-3-2002	6-3-2001
Gayndah	Central Burnett Community Radio Association Inc.	91.5	7-4-2001 to 6-4-2002	28-3-2001
South Australi	a			
Adelaide	Fresh Broadcasters Inc.	92.7	31-3-2001 to 31-5-200	30-3-2001
Adelaide	Radio Televisione Italiana (SA) Inc.	92.7	1-3-2001 to 31-5-200	30-3-2001