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Changes to the rules for Australian content on commercial television in 1999, to allow New Zealand programs to count towards Australian content quotas, had very little impact in their second year of operation, the ABA has found.

All commercial networks exceeded the minimum 55 per cent Australian transmission quota in 2000, with Seven's Adelaide service achieving the highest level (62.4 per cent). Required levels of documentary and drama programs were also exceeded. (See table 1, p. 4, for year 2000 compliance results for the Australian Content and Children's Television Standards.)

'It is pleasing to see that all commercial television networks exceeded the ABA's requirements for Australian programming,' said Professor David Flint, ABA Chairman. 'The results for 2000 demonstrate that the networks continue to provide Australian audiences with high levels of Australian content, from familiar long running series and children's programs to news and current affairs,

together with a mix of successful new productions.'

'The results for 2000 show that a very limited amount of New Zealand programming was broadcast by the networks, despite continued concern about changes to the rules,' he added.

New Zealand programs made up only 8.9 hours of programming broadcast across the networks in 2000 (5.9 hours on the Seven network and 3 hours on the Nine network). Overall levels of Australian programming were similar to those of 1999. (See table 3, p.5, for a list of the New Zealand programs broadcast in 2000).

Australian documentaries

In 2000, the requirement for first run Australian documentaries increased from 15 to 20 hours per year. All networks met their obligations for new Australian documentary programs. Seven network broadcast more than double the requirement with 43.4 hours on average across the network, Nine network stations broadcast 29.9 hours on average and

Australian content standard

The Australian Content Standard has two main mechanisms: an overall transmission quota and minimum quotas for specific types of programs. The transmission quota for 1999 set the overall annual minimum level of Australian programming at 55 per cent between 6am and midnight. (First release sports coverage commencing before midnight and finishing before 2 a.m. can also count towards the quota).

There are specific quotas for annual minimum amounts of first release Australian programs in the following categories:

- drama — minimum 225 points (with 775 points required in successive three year period from 1999);
- documentary — 20 hours; and
- children's C programs — 130 hours, including 32 hours of children's C drama.

The Australian children's C drama requirement of 32 hours forms part of the 130 hours of first release Australian C programs.

There is also a requirement for a minimum amount of 130 hours of Australian preschool programs.

the Ten network stations broadcast 21.5 hours each.

Australian drama

The Australian Content Standard required a minimum amount of Australian first release drama broadcast between 5pm and 12 midnight in 2000. The requirement is measured in points, with a drama score of at least 225 points required in any one year.

In 2000, the Seven network stations achieved the highest

drama score, averaging 287.4 points on average across the network. This represents a drop of 26 hours of first release Australian drama broadcast by Seven compared to 1999. This was due to a decrease in the broadcast hours of its main Australian drama series because of Seven's Olympic coverage and a reduction in the number of

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For all the results for 2000: go to the ABA's website at www.aba.gov.au/what/program/ozcont.htm



Table 1: Australian Content and Children's Television Standards Compliance 2000

Australian Programs		Australian Drama	Australian Documentary	Australian Children's C Drama		Australian Children's C programs	Children's C programs	Australian Preschool P programs
all	first release	total annual score	first release	total hours	first release	repeat	total hours – all	all
% 6am – 12mn	total hours	total hours	total hours	total hours	total hours – incl C drama	total hours – all C programs	total hours	total hours
Minimum requirement	225 points hrs	score	20 hours	32 hours	130 hours	260 hours	130 hours	130 hours
Seven network								
ATN Sydney	192.3	287.5	42.4	32.0	133.0	262.0	130.0	130.0
HSV Melbourne	191.4	287.5	42.3	32.0	133.0	261.0	130.0	130.0
BTQ Brisbane	192.3	287.5	45.8	32.0	133.0	268.0	130.0	130.0
SAS Adelaide	191.4	287.2	44.7	32.0	133.5	267.0	130.0	130.0
TWW Perth	192.3	287.5	41.7	32.0	133.0	263.0	130.0	130.0
Nine network								
TCN Sydney	131.4	281.3	26.5	32.5	139.5	285.8	130.0	130.0
GTV Melbourne	133.9	285.0	28.5	32.5	139.5	289.8	130.0	130.0
QTQ Brisbane	131.1	279.1	35.0	32.5	140.0	287.8	130.0	130.0
Ten network								
TEN Sydney	174.6	236.7	21.5	33.0	131.0	262.5	130.0	130.0
ATV Melbourne	174.6	236.7	21.5	33.0	131.0	262.5	130.0	130.0
TVQ Brisbane	174.6	236.7	21.5	33.0	131.0	262.5	130.0	130.0
ADS Adelaide	174.6	236.7	21.5	33.0	131.0	262.5	130.0	130.0
NEW Perth	174.6	236.7	21.5	33.0	131.0	262.5	130.0	130.0

The formula for scoring drama programs forms part of the standard, and can be expressed as: Score = Format Factor x Duration of program.

The Format Factors for drama are:

3.2 for one-offs (including feature films, telemovies, mini-series);

2 for series/serial produced at the rate of one hour or less per week; and

1 for series/serial produced at the rate of more than one hour per week.



Australian feature films broadcast.

The Nine network achieved similar drama scores and hours broadcast in 2000 as in 1999 with respect to its Sydney and Brisbane services. The Sydney service achieved a score of 281.3

in 2000 (131.4 hours) compared to 280.5 in 1999 (127.4 hours) and the Brisbane service achieved a score of 279.1 in 2000 (131.1 hours) compared to 282.2 in 1999 (128.1 hours). Nine network's Melbourne service increased its drama score

from 268.8 points in 1999 (128.1 hours) to 285 points in 2000 (131.1 hours).

The Ten network's drama score and hours broadcast fell for the third consecutive year from 277.8 points in 1998 (230 hours) to 260 points in 1999 (216 hours) and 236.7 points in 2000 (174.6 hours). Under the standard Ten has until the end of 2001 to ensure that the drama score for the three year period 1999-2001 totals a minimum of 775 points.

A comparison of the drama scores achieved by the networks from 1998 to 2000 is included in table 2.

In 2000, the Seven network's 192 hours of Australian first release drama was mainly serials (102.5 hours) and series (82.9 hours), compared to 218 hours in 1999. Nine network's 132 hours (127.4 hours in 1999) were mainly series (100.2 hours). Ten network's 174.6 hours (216.3 hours in 1999) were mainly serials (117.5 hours).

Children's programs

Under the Children's Television Standards, each commercial television station must broadcast a total of at least 390 hours of quality children's programs that have been classified by the ABA. The total is made up of at least 260 hours of C programs for primary school children (at least 130 hours of which must be Australian) and at least 130 hours of P programs for preschool children (at least 130 hours of which must be Australian).

All network stations met the overall C quota of 260 hours of C classified programs. Nine network exceeded the overall C quota by 26 hours in Sydney, and 30 hours in Melbourne and 28 hours in Brisbane. Although only half of these programs must be new programs produced locally, very few were foreign:

- Seven network had 16 hours of foreign programs in their total of 264 hours
- Nine network had 7.3 of 287.8 hours; and
- Ten network had 52.5 from a total of 262.5 hours.

All networks met the targets of 32 hours of first release Australian children's C drama and 130 hours of P programs. New Australian children's C drama in 2000 included *Gloria's House*, *Pig's Breakfast*, *The New Adventure's of Ocean Girl* and *Thunderstone*.

All regional television stations complied with the Australian Content and Children's Television standards in 2000. Regional stations take most of their programming from the networks, usually with some additional Australian programs.

Table 2: First Release Australian Drama 2000

Minimum requirement	Annual score		
	225 points	1998	1999
2000			
Seven network			
ATN Sydney	295.0	340.4	287.5
HSV Melbourne	295.0	340.6	287.5
BTQ Brisbane	295.0	340.3	287.5
SAS Adelaide	301.2	341.9	287.2
TVW Perth	295.0	338.3	287.5
Nine network			
TCN Sydney	252.6	280.5	281.3
GTV Melbourne	249.8	268.8	285.0
QTQ Brisbane	252.7	282.2	279.1
Ten network			
TEN Sydney	277.8	260.0	236.7
ATV Melbourne	277.8	260.0	236.7
TVQ Brisbane	277.8	260.0	236.7
ADS Adelaide	277.8	260.0	236.7
NEW Perth	277.8	260.0	236.7

1998 and 1999 provided for comparison

Table 3: New Zealand programs broadcast in 2000

Program name	Category	Quota	Hours
Seven network			
Once Were Warriors	Drama	Transmission only	2.0
Tibet	Documentary	1 st release documentary + transmission	1.0
Chile: Forests of Defiance	Documentary	Transmission only	1.0
Chile: To the End of the World	Documentary	Transmission only	1.0
America's Cup Yachting 2000	Sports event	Transmission only	0.9
Nine network			
Broken English	Drama	1 st release drama + transmission	2.0
Old Enemies: Crocodiles and People in Papua New Guinea	Documentary	1 st release documentary + transmission	1.0

Note: The two documentary programs 'Chile: Forests of Defiance' and 'Chile: To the End of the World' do not count toward Seven network's documentary quota as they do not meet the definition of 'first release' under the standard.