



C and P programs

Programs granted C and P classification between 28 November 2001 and 21 January 2002. 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
THE BIG ARVO (SERIES 5)	Australia	C	new	18/12/2001	Seven Network Ltd
THE BIG ARVO (SERIES 6)	Australia	C	new	18/12/2001	Seven Network Ltd

C – children's program, C Drama – C Australian drama program, P – preschool program, Class. – Classification

ABA clarifies definition of open narrowcasting radio services

The ABA has decided to clarify the definition of open narrowcasting radio services with the gazettal of the *Broadcasting Services Clarification Notice 2001*. The clarification provides certainty about the category of service into which certain broadcasting services fall under the Broadcasting Services Act. It does this by deeming services that conform to the criteria set out in the clarification to be open narrowcasting radio services.

'It is in the interests of everyone in the radio industry to have a high level of certainty as to the category of service that a broadcasting service falls into,' said Professor David Flint, ABA Chairman. 'This clarification will increase the level of certainty for a significant number of niche broadcasting services which are either currently being provided in the community or which may be provided in the future.'

The services covered by the clarification are racing radio services, non-English language services, religious services, services provided to cover special events, services provided for a limited period, information services (such as stock market reports and weather services), pre-recorded looped services and services provided using only a subcarrier channel (ancillary services).

The clarification also makes clear that a service provided using a one-watt transmitter is not an open narrowcasting service by reason only of the power of the transmitter used to provide the service.

The clarification was developed following a public consultation process that ended on 23 October 2001. Submissions were received from the radio industry, the racing radio industry and other interested persons and organisations

on the draft clarification notice drafted by the Office of Legislative Drafting. Many interested groups had also made submissions on the ABA's discussion paper released in March 2001.

The clarification is available on the ABA's website at www.aba.gov.au/radio/narrowcasting or may be obtained from the ABA.



Keeping children safe on the internet

In December 2001, the ABA launched an education program to help keep children safe on the Internet.

'*Cybersmart Kids Online - smart net surfing for kids and their grownups*' features a range of material, including an updated website, brochures and posters providing tools and information for adults supervising children, and friendly tips for children to be Internet savvy.

The program has been formulated in response to the ABA's *Internet@home* research, the final report of which was also launched in December. This innovative research project has provided a wealth of detail about the way the Internet is used in Australian family homes, their concerns, and their information needs.

The *Internet@home* research found 71 per cent of parents are more concerned by what their children access on the Internet than what can be accessed on television or video.

However, Australian families are well informed about the dangers and are taking sensible measures to protect children from Internet dangers, with 84 per cent of parents supervising their children's use of the Internet and 67 per cent setting strict rules for Internet use.

Launching *Cybersmart Kids Online*, ABA Chairman Professor David Flint said while there





would always be dangers for children on the Internet, it was important to be realistic about these dangers and take responsible steps to educate and supervise children's use of the web.

'Parents have legitimate concerns about the types of material that their children may access on the Internet, and they have told us that there is a role for government in providing information to help ensure their children can safely enjoy the many benefits of the Internet,' said Professor Flint.

'Simple, practical steps that parents could take included setting rules for using the Internet, locating the computer in the family room to facilitate supervision, using a filter, and talking about the types of material that are acceptable in the household.'

Helping to launch the site, NSW Commissioner for Children and Young People, Gillian Calvert, praised the advice being provided by the ABA and encouraged parents and teachers to use the practical advice it offers.

'Education and awareness are an essential part of protecting children when they are online. The information on *Cybersmart Kids Online* will be a valuable resource - for both parents and children - in developing this education and awareness,' said Ms Calvert.

Cybersmart Kids Online doesn't only contain advice for parents. It has tips for children of all ages - they can also test how cyber smart they are with the interactive quiz. The site also provides lesson ideas for teachers, and links to sites recommended for children and teenagers.

Printed information material for those not already connected to the Internet is available from the ABA, and the ABA plans to tour shopping centres with a display and information centre to provide assistance and answer parents' queries about Internet safety.

Background

Internet@home

The ABA commissioned Ms Kate Aisbett of Entertainment Insights to undertake the *Internet@home* research project in 2000.

The research was conducted in three stages:

- qualitative focus groups with adults, teenagers and children;
- a national quantitative survey of 1203 adults (stratified by State, gender and home-connection status); and
- a panel of 310 Internet-using households at 284 locations across Australia with children under 18 years of age.

The research focused on:

- impact on the use of other media;
- impact on family dynamics;
- any rules and routines around the use of the Internet;
- perceptions of benefits and risks;
- the location within the household of Internet connection(s); and
- users' information needs (particularly those of new users).

Cybersmart Kids Online

The ABA's family web site was established as part of the first 'Online Australia Day' on 27 November 1998. It was a joint initiative of the ABA and the National Office of the Information Economy (NOIE).

The site was a 'starter kit' for parents and responsible adults, providing them with tools to guide their children to productive and safe use of the Internet.

The *Internet@home* research report is available from the ABA (\$20) or may be accessed from www.aba.gov.au. *Cybersmart Kids Online* can be found at www.cybersmarkids.com.au.



ABA welcomes auditor's report

The ABA welcomes a report tabled in Parliament in early December 2001 by the Australian National Auditors' Office into the performance of its planning and licensing functions. In particular, the ABA welcomes the acknowledgement the report gives to the work the ABA has already undertaken towards improving its processes and systems.

'In addition to the processes and systems referred to in the audit report as they relate to Planning and Licensing, it is opportune to reflect also on the interaction of those processes with a number of other wider business improvement and management initiatives introduced by the ABA as part of its broad management improvement program,' said Professor David Flint, ABA Chairman.

'An important contribution to the overall system and quality improvement processes is the ABA's commitment to an integrated approach to business planning, performance management and monitoring systems and the development of audit compliance throughout the organisation.'

The ABA was happy to accept all seven of the auditor's recommendations.

