



Submissions on ABA website

Submissions to the review of the Australian content standard are available on the ABA's website at www.aba.gov.au/tv/content/ozcont/review_2001/submissions.htm

Approximately 40 submissions have been received, representing the views of broadcasters, the production industry, film-funding agencies, public interest and community organisations. The issues paper was published in November 2001.

The ABA is considering submissions and will seek further public comment on proposed changes to the standard. The ABA's website is regularly updated with information concerning the review.

The submissions represent a substantive body of information about the production and broadcast of local content on Australian television, as well as argument on the policy and regulatory questions identified in the ABA's issues paper.

The ABA is examining whether the standard is operating effectively to ensure that commercial television audiences will have access to a diverse range of quality Australian programs into the future.

This involves issues of concern to broadcasters and producers in the producing and funding local content, particularly high quality adult and children's drama, and documentary programs.

The issues paper formed the basis of the consultation process that the ABA is undertaking during the review. It provided extensive background information to assist submitters in considering the issues, including program expenditure data and Australian content compliance results for the last ten years.

Public meetings in Newcastle, Wollongong and Canberra

The ABA held public meetings in Newcastle, Wollongong and Canberra during February 2002 as part of its investigation into the adequacy of local news and information programs in regional and rural Australia.

The Newcastle meeting was held on Tuesday 19 February, between 4.00-7.00pm, at the Newcastle City Hall Function and Convention Centre, 286 King Street, Newcastle.

The Wollongong meeting was held on Friday 22 February, between 4.00-7.00pm, at WIN Entertainment Centre, Corner Crown and Harbour Streets, Wollongong.

The Canberra meeting was held on Monday 25 February, between 4.00-7.00pm, at Olms Canberra Hotel, Corner Ainslie and Limestone Avenues, Braddon.

The ABA sent letters and emails to those who made submissions inviting them to attend the meetings.

'There was a standing invitation to all who made submissions to attend,' said Professor David Flint, ABA Chairman. 'Television licensees and representatives of Federal, State/Territory and local governments in these areas were also welcome to attend.'

The closing date for submissions was Friday 15 February 2002. Details of public meetings elsewhere, including North Queensland, will be announced shortly.

