



**Revised figures for the amount of new eligible drama expenditure by the subscription television industry in 2002-03, increase total drama expenditure from \$18 million to \$19 million.**

## Revised new eligible drama expenditure for subscription television

The ABA has released revised figures for the amount of new eligible drama expenditure by the subscription television industry in 2002-03, increasing total drama expenditure from \$18 million to \$19 million.

Of this expenditure, \$10.8 million has now been counted towards meeting the industry's 10 per cent requirement for 2002-03, leaving \$9.1 million for the industry to make-up in 2003-04 in order to meet its requirements under the scheme.

This revision was made following a decision by the ABA to approve expenditure by a scheme participant made through the Macquarie-Nine Film and Television Fund 2003.

'This is the first time a subscription television drama scheme participant has claimed expenditure made through a managed investment fund,' said

Ms Maddock. 'The expenditure was approved by the ABA on the basis that the participant's investment in the Macquarie Nine Fund 2003 was directed into projects that met all the requirements of the drama expenditure scheme, as set out in legislation.'

The requirements of the scheme include that expenditure be invested in projects that meet the definitions of 'drama program', 'eligible drama program' and 'expenditure under section 103B of the Broadcasting Services Act and the definition of 'new' under section 103K of the Act.

Subscription television drama scheme participants should note that the decision of the ABA extends to the particular circumstances of the Macquarie-Nine Film and Television Fund 2003 only. ☒

**Table: Revised expenditure by subscription TV drama services on new Australian drama**

	2002-03
Total program expenditure	\$199,326,879
New Australian drama 10% requirement	\$19,932,688
Actual new Australian drama expenditure	\$18,980,511
Expenditure to make-up previous year's shortfall	\$8,246,506
Expenditure toward current year's 10% requirement	\$10,815,030
Shortfall to be made-up in next financial year	\$9,117,658
No. of drama services	17

## Ministerial direction on revisiting radio licence area plans – guideline for licensees

The ABA has released a *Guideline for Licensees* regarding the application of the *ABA (Revisiting Radio LAs) Direction No. 1 of 2003*. The guideline describes the assessment process that the ABA will use to determine whether it should consider revisiting a commercial radio licence area plan if there is a change in program format following a change of control in a licence.

'This guideline provides valuable information for commercial radio licensees when they are planning a change of station format,' said Ms Maddock.

The Minister's Direction states that the ABA must consider whether to exercise its power to vary a licence area plan where, within three years of a

change in control, a commercial radio program format changes from one of broad appeal to one of more limited appeal, and the change results in a reduction in the number of broad appeal services in a licence area. The purpose of the Minister's Direction is to ensure that changes in control of commercial radio licences do not lead to reductions in the diversity or range of services available within relevant licence areas.

The Minister's Direction was published in the *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* No. GN 17 on 30 April 2003. The ABA provided all commercial radio broadcasting licensees with a copy of the Direction in June 2003. ☒