



The ABA invites applications for a community television broadcasting licence in Adelaide to transmit on UHF channel 31.

ABA invites applications for new community television licence for Adelaide

The ABA has invited applications for a community television broadcasting licence in Adelaide. The service will transmit on UHF channel 31.

'Community television can play a valuable role in meeting local needs, providing an outlet for innovative and niche programming and opening opportunities for enthusiastic volunteers to train in television production, programming and management,' said Lyn Maddock, Acting ABA Chair.

Community television licences

Community television has operated on a trial basis since 1994 under the open narrowcasting class licence.

The Government asked the ABA to conduct a trial of community television using the vacant sixth television channel (UHF channel 31) in Australia, in 1992. As the ABA did not have the power to issue a temporary community television licence, it made the channel available for fixed periods for non-profit community/educa-

tional open narrowcasting services.

A review of the community television trial, conducted under Schedule 4 to the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992*, was tabled in Parliament in June 2002. As a result of the issues raised in the review, the Act has recently been amended. The new framework for community television licences introduces requirements aimed at improving the financial and management capacity and accountability of community television licensees. It also assists the revenue raising ability of the community television sector. The new measures are intended to balance the need for ongoing financial viability of the sector with the need to ensure that it maintains its community and not-for-profit nature.

The ABA has allocated community television licences in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth.

Allocation of community broadcasting licences

Community licences can be

Information for applicants

For copies of the Adelaide application information booklet, contact the ABA's Licensing Section on 1800 226 667 or (02) 9334 7700.

For general information go to the ABA's web site: www.aba.gov.au/tv/licensing/community/index.htm

Closing dates

Applications for this licence must be received before midnight on Friday, 4 March 2005. The ABA will not accept any applications lodged after this date.

From 11 March 2005, all applications received will be placed on the ABA's web site at: www.aba.gov.au/tv/licensing/new_licences.htm and in the Adelaide City Council Library, 176 Tynte Street, North Adelaide.

Submissions on the applications

The ABA welcomes written submissions from members of the public about the applications. Submissions should be lodged with the ABA by 5 pm on Friday, 25 March 2005; send email submissions by email to info@aba.gov.au.

Copies of any letters of support included with applications and subsequent support letters received by the ABA will not be displayed on the web site or in libraries but can be made available for inspection on request. Anyone who has concerns about public access to their personal details should advise the ABA to treat this information as confidential. ☒

allocated only if the ABA makes new community broadcasting services available in an area following its planning process and the release of a licence area plan.

The ABA has advertised for applications in newspapers in the licence area. Applications must be lodged with the ABA

by the closing date advertised. In light of the judgment of the Federal Court of Australia handed down on 31 January 2003, the ABA will not grant any extensions of time to apply for a community television licence.

Applications will be made available for public comment. ☒