



News Update

International launch of the Virtual Global Taskforce welcomed

The ABA has welcomed the international launch of the Virtual Global Taskforce (VGT) website as an important initiative in combating online child pornography.

The VGT is a partnership between international law enforcement agencies which aims to make the Internet a safer place for children. The VGT website, www.virtualglobaltaskforce.com is a portal linking international enforcement agencies and other agencies working in the area of online safety.

The ABA is one of seven Australian agencies linked with the VGT website, and this will facilitate complaints about illegal or offensive Internet content to the ABA's online complaints hotline. The website address for complaints is www.aba.gov.au/internet/complaints.

'The VGT will complement the work of agencies such as the ABA and the Australian Federal Police who are working to improve the Internet experience for young people' said ABA

Member Jane Marquard. 'Complaints to the ABA's online hotline have doubled since Operation Auxin in September 2004, reflecting increased community awareness of illegal Internet content'.

Operation Auxin, the September 2004 Australian police operation against Internet child pornography, resulted in hundreds of people being arrested for child sex offences.

'Operation Auxin has made it clear that agencies must co-operate at national and international levels to combat the problems associated with illegal Internet content, particularly child pornography,' said Ms Marquard.

'The ABA has worked with law enforcement agencies in the online safety area since the inception of the Online Content Scheme on 1 January 2000, referring matters on to the state and federal police for further investigation if they depict child pornography or other serious material. The ABA also works with more than twenty international hotlines to deal with these matters and, between them, these hotlines have dealt with more than 300,000 complaints'.

Temporary community broadcasting licences

Allocated from 25 January – 17 February 2005

Area served	Licensee	Frequency	Period	Date allocated
New South Wales				
Taree RA3	Manning Great Lakes Christian Broadcasters Inc.	106.5 MHz	16.3.2005 to 15.3.2006	7.2.2005
Victoria				
Corryong RA1	High Country Christian Broadcasters Association Inc.	94.9 MHz	7.3.2005 to 6.7.2005	2.2.2005
Kilmore RA1	Mitchell Community Radio Inc.	97.1 MHz	13.2.2005 to 12.2.2006	2.2.2006
Queensland				
Bundaberg RA2	Bundaberg Burnett Community Broadcasting Association Inc.	96.3 MHz	9.3.2005 to 8.3.2006	7.2.2005
Tiaro RA1	Tiaro Shire Community Centre Inc.	107.1 MHz	1.3.2005 to 28.2.2006	7.2.2005
Weipa RA1	Cape Care Association Inc.	94.5 MHz	22.2.2005 to 21.2.2006	3.2.2005
South Australia				
Goolwa RA1	Radio Alexandrina Community Broadcasters Association Inc.	96.5 MHz	30.1.2005 to 29.1.2006	25.1.2005
Goolwa RA1	The Fleurieu Christian Broadcasters Inc.	96.5 MHz	30.1.2005 to 29.1.2006	5.1.2005