

## Applications for **Adelaide** community television trial invited

In October 2006, ACMA invited applications from groups interested in conducting a community television trial in Adelaide on UHF channel 31. The service would operate under the open narrowcasting television ‘class licence’ for community and educational non-profit purposes.

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.

The current community television trial licence in Adelaide is due to expire in January 2007 following ACMA’s decision not to proceed to allocate a permanent community television licence in Adelaide. ACMA is proposing to continue with a new trial in Adelaide for a further period of six months.

Applications for a permanent community television licence to serve Adelaide (SL1150811) were invited on 15 October 2004, with applications closing on 4 March 2005. C31 and OUR TV Adelaide Limited applied for the licence.

In June 2006, ACMA decided not to proceed with the allocation of the permanent

community television licence in Adelaide and to extend C31’s licence to conduct the community television trial until 4 January 2007, during which time it would seek expressions of interest and assess any applications for a future trial.

Applications, which closed on 2 November 2006, could only be lodged by companies formed in Australia or an external Territory (including companies limited by guarantee and incorporated associations). Applicants were required to demonstrate in writing that they meet the relevant criteria in the Access and Compliance Statement. If no applicant convincingly meets the criteria, no further licence for a trial service will be allocated.

### **TRIAL COMMUNITY TELEVISION BROADCASTING SERVICES**

In 1992, the Australian Government asked the former Australian Broadcasting Authority to conduct a trial of community television using the vacant sixth television channel (channel 31) in Australia. From 1994 on, the ABA made spectrum available in certain areas for trial services under the open narrowcasting television class licence for community and educational non-profit purposes. Permanent community television

licences were allocated in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth in 2004, and ACMA expects to make an allocation decision for a permanent community television licence in Lismore next year.

ACMA has decided not to make additional community television licences available in areas where spectrum has not already been planned. However, it may consider making additional licences using analog channels available in exceptional circumstances and on a case-by-case basis. This decision has been made primarily on the basis that analog channels are likely to be exhausted in most parts of Australia (including the more densely settled parts of regional Australia) following the introduction of digital television. ACMA is concerned that it may be difficult to commence and sustain a bona fide community television service in markets other than those where trials have already commenced, which are generally the largest markets in Australia.

More information about community television licences is on the ACMA website at [www.acma.gov.au](http://www.acma.gov.au) (go to Licences > Broadcasting > Types of licence > Community).

### **TEMPORARY COMMUNITY BROADCASTING LICENCES ALLOCATED OCTOBER 2006**

State	Licence area	Licensee	Community served	Frequency	Start	Finish	Allocated
NSW	Lord Howe RA1	Lord Howe Island Radio Station Association Inc	General	100.1 MHz	22/10/06	21/10/07	13/10/06
VIC	Wodonga RA1	Albury Wodonga Christian Broadcasters Inc	Christian	100.7 MHz	21/11/06	20/11/07	18/10/06
WA	Kalgoorlie RA2	Tjuma Pulka (Media) Aboriginal Corporation	Aboriginal	96.3 MHz	24/10/06	23/10/07	18/10/06