

Ballot for two-letter amateur radio call signs

The Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA) is to conduct a fair and transparent ballot for the allocation of two-letter call signs in all Australian states and territories.

ACMA recently introduced several important reforms to the amateur radio service. These reforms included a series of changes to amateur licence conditions and the introduction of a class licence to authorise amateurs visiting from overseas.

To streamline services for amateur licensees, ACMA has also delegated certain statutory functions and administrative services associated with amateur licensing to the WIA.

As part of these arrangements, the WIA will manage a fair and transparent ballot for the allocation of two-letter call signs in all Australian states and territories. Two-letter call signs will be available on an equitable basis to all qualified operators who are eligible to participate in the ballot.

Eligibility is limited to amateurs who hold, or are qualified to hold, an amateur licence (amateur advanced station) and do not already possess a two-letter call sign.

On 1 August 2008, the WIA invited eligible

amateurs to participate in the ballot. This invitation included information on how to apply. More information on the ballot, including ACMA's governing principles for the process, eligibility requirements and expected timeframes, is available on the WIA's website at <www.wia.org.au>.

Applications for the ballot close on 24 August 2008 and it is expected that the ballot will take place on 19 September 2008. An ACMA representative will be present at the ballot.

ACMA and the WIA are finalising the ongoing contractual arrangements governing the conduct of amateur examinations, the process of Amateur Operator Certificates of Proficiency and call sign management. It is expected that the new arrangements will be in place by the end of 2008.

These arrangements will finalise the outcomes of the Review of Amateur Services Regulation, conducted by the former Australian Communications Authority in 2003-04.



Children's and preschool programs granted classification, July 2008

Program title	Series	Episode description	Program style	Program type	Country of origin	New/renewal	Class	Decision date	Applicant
<i>Crime Scene 101</i>	1	1-26	Live action	Drama - series	Australia	New	PRC	8/07/08	Pacific & Beyond Pty Ltd
<i>Dennis and Gnasher</i>	1	301A-307A	Animation	Drama - series	Australia	New	CD	23/07/08	Sticky Pictures Pty Ltd
<i>Lab Rats Challenge</i>	1	1-65	Live action	Light entertainment - competition/game show	Australia	New	C	28/07/08	Pacific & Beyond Pty Ltd
<i>Larry the Lawnmower</i>	1	1-195	Live action/puppetry	Drama - series	Australia	New	PRP	8/07/08	Ambience Entertainment Pty Ltd
<i>Pearlie</i>	1	101A-107A	Animation	Drama - series	Australia	New	CD	3/07/08	Sticky Pictures Pty Ltd
<i>The Shak</i>	7	SHAK 0396-0460	Live action	Light entertainment - magazine	Australia	New	C	23/07/08	Nine Network Australia Pty Ltd
<i>Time Trackers</i>	1	1-13	Live action	Drama -series	Australia	New	CD	23/07/08	Taylor Media Pty Ltd

Class - Classification, C - C Classification, CD - C Drama, P - P Classification, PRC - Provisional C, PRP - Provisional P. A classification expires five years after the date it was granted or renewed.