



## Community radio licences not renewed

**ACMA has not renewed two community radio broadcasting licences—one held by Cobar Community Radio Inc., which broadcast as radio 2HOT FM 102.9, and the other held by the Portuguese Cultural and Welfare Centre Inc. (PCWC) in Perth on 91.3 MHz.**

The Cobar licence expired on 21 January 2008. In considering whether to renew the licence, ACMA found that the licensee had not adequately identified or met community needs in the Cobar licence area. Providing a service that meets such local needs is a central requirement of community broadcasting.

ACMA was also concerned about the licensee's management capacity and ability to comply with licence conditions. Community broadcasters should encourage members of the public to participate in the operation of the service and must also provide sound corporate governance. The licensee's inability to meet these legislative requirements contributed to the decision to not renew the 2HOT licence.

ACMA continues to support community

broadcasting in the Cobar area and has issued a temporary community broadcasting licence to Cobar Community Radio Inc. for six months on 102.9 MHz. This frequency may be shared with other interested community organisations in the Cobar licence area who apply for a temporary community broadcasting licence.

The PCWC licence served the Portuguese-speaking population of the Fremantle licence area of Western Australia and expired on 31 January 2008.

In assessing PCWC's licence renewal application, ACMA found significant corporate governance problems and concluded that PCWC does not have the management capacity to provide the service.

Community broadcasters are given free

access to valuable spectrum in order to provide services for the community they are licensed to serve, and must therefore have proper systems in place to ensure compliance with their own constitution and the relevant state legislation governing incorporated associations.

ACMA also continues to support community broadcasting in the Fremantle area and has made the 91.3 MHz frequency available for temporary community broadcasting. PCWC may apply for a temporary community broadcasting licence but will need to share the frequency if there are other aspirant community broadcasters in the licence area who are also interested in providing a service.

ACMA may in the future invite applications for a permanent community licence in the area.

Community broadcasting licences are issued for five years. The *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* gives ACMA discretion to review a community broadcasting licence when it is due for renewal.



## New community radio licences for Indigenous and seniors communities in Perth

**ACMA has allocated two new community radio broadcasting licences to serve areas of Perth.**

The licences will be allocated to Peedac Pty Ltd to broadcast on 100.9 MHz (SL1150746) to the Perth metropolitan area and surrounding districts, and to Capital Community Radio Inc. to broadcast on 90.5 MHz (SL1150828) to Perth city and the inner- and middle-ring suburbs of Perth.

Peedac's proposed service will serve Perth's Indigenous community, while Capital Community Radio's main target audience will be the city's seniors population.

In considering the mix of services available in Perth and the services proposed by each of the applicants, ACMA decided that these two community groups demonstrated the greatest need for the proposed services.

There is currently no broadcasting service in Perth catering to the needs of the city's Indigenous community, which is one of the largest in Australia. Peedac's proposed service will provide Perth's Indigenous community with its own voice and serve those interested in Indigenous culture and issues.

ACMA is also of the view that Perth's seniors are only partially catered for by the broadcasting services currently available, with an unmet need for a dedicated seniors focus. Capital Community Radio's proposed service will therefore focus on the needs and interests of the growing senior demographic. The service will provide a mix of music and information programs of interest to this group.

There were two other applicants for the licences—Phoenix Radio Ltd proposed a service for the country music/general community, while Western Sports Media Ltd proposed a service for sporting enthusiasts and fans of country and other music.

ACMA called for applications for the licences in July 2007, with a closing date of 16 August 2007. ACMA invited submissions from the public on the applications and held meetings with each of the applicants on 19 November 2007. The licences were allocated on 22 January 2008 and the new licensees must begin a service within 12 months.

There are 11 community radio broadcasting services in Perth—six long-term Perth-wide services and five sub-metro services.