



## ACMA invites applications for temporary community broadcasting licences for Perth

**ACMA has invited applications from aspirant community broadcasters to provide temporary services to Perth on the frequency 101.7 MHz, following the surrender of the frequency by the operator of community broadcasting service Groove FM.**

Groove FM, which ceased broadcasting at midnight on Sunday 9 March 2008, had been issued a temporary community broadcasting licence (TCBL) to provide a service for the youth of Perth after ACMA's decision not to renew the long-term licence for the service.

ACMA Chairman Chris Chapman is disappointed that Groove FM was unable to take advantage of its TCBL to address the concerns identified with the service.

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Mr Chapman now expects that other groups will take up the challenge of promoting diversity in broadcasting services for Perth audiences.

'This is an opportunity for community groups to develop their operational and programming skills while providing for the cultural needs of the Perth community not met by existing services,' he said.

While ACMA would welcome the emergence of a new organisation representing the youth community, the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* provides that temporary services may address

any legitimate community need.

Community broadcasting services:

- are provided for community purposes
- are not operated for profit or as part of a profit-making exercise
- provide programs that are able to be received by commonly available equipment and are made available free to the general public.

These services are intended to cater to the needs and interests of particular communities.

Licensees are required to encourage members of the community they have been licensed to serve to participate in the operation and programming of the service.

An applicant for a TCBL must be a company that is formed in Australia or an external territory and that represents a community interest. The applicant must also be a not-for-profit, locally based representative organisation with a clearly defined purpose and transparent, non-discriminatory membership rules.

A TCBL may be allocated for a period of

twelve months and cannot be renewed.

However, a licensee providing a service under a TCBL may apply for a new TCBL before its existing one expires.

When there is only one applicant for a TCBL, ACMA will determine timing conditions to allow full-time broadcasting (that is, 24 hours, seven days a week). When more than one TCBL is allocated to broadcast on the same spectrum in an area, timing conditions will determine when each licensee may broadcast its service.

If more than one organisation is found to meet the basic eligibility requirements or if new aspirant community broadcasters later emerge, access to the 101.7 MHz frequency will be shared.

At an appropriate time, ACMA will offer a long-term community broadcasting licence for allocation, after conducting a merits-based assessment of all applicants for the licence.

Applications for the TCBL on frequency 101.7 MHz closed on Monday 31 March 2008.

More information is available on the ACMA website at <[www.acma.gov.au](http://www.acma.gov.au)> (go to For licensees & industry: Licensing & regulation > Broadcasting: Broadcasting licensing > Licence types > Community > Temporary community broadcasting), by emailing <[communitybroadcasting@acma.gov.au](mailto:communitybroadcasting@acma.gov.au)> or on telephone 1800 226 667.