



**Public hearing in Canberra – 28 February**

# Tuning into community broadcasting

The results of the first national qualitative research study into Australian community broadcasting audiences will be presented in Canberra this Wednesday. The study explores why a significant and increasing number of Australians listen to community radio and watch community television, what they value about it, and how it meets their needs.

Assoc. Prof. Michael Meadows, who is based at Griffith University's Centre For Public Culture And Ideas, will speak on behalf of the team of researchers. A key finding of the report was the listeners' desire for local news, music and community information.

Committee Chair Jackie Kelly said "Community radio and television is a dynamic sector in Australia and provides vital services to many remote, disadvantaged and special interest groups. Licensing and sponsorship regulations are two significant issues for many community broadcasters".

She added "The Committee has been inspired by the passion of many community broadcasters and the work of the volunteers that support them. The inquiry is looking to ensure that Australia maintains the vibrancy and diversity of community broadcasting".

The inquiry into community broadcasting was referred by the Federal Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, Senator Helen Coonan. The Committee is investigating a range of issues including content and programming requirements, cultural diversity, meeting the needs of special interest groups, and technological opportunities and threats.

## **Public Hearing Program – Wednesday 28 February**

**Venue:** Committee Room 2R2, Parliament House, Canberra

**9.05 am** Assoc. Prof. Michael Meadows (Submission 89)

Further details on the inquiry, including the terms of reference, membership of the Committee and advice on making submissions can be obtained on the Committee's website at [www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/cita](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/cita) or by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4601 or emailing [cita.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:cita.reps@aph.gov.au).

**For media comment**, please contact Enid Golding (Jackie Kelly's media officer) on (02) 6277 2369 or (02) 4732 2844

**For background information**, please contact the Committee Secretary, on (02) 6277 4601