

## Submission 42

Committee Secretary  
Standing Committee on Communications, Information Technology and the Arts  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

The Management of Spirit FM has read, and agrees with, the CBAA submission.

We believe it is imperative that if Community Radio is to remain a viable source for the dissemination of the diverse cultural requirements of this nation, then it must be given access and support to broadcast in digital format. We believe that some of the burden of the expense of this exercise could be met by the radio stations themselves if consideration is given by the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts for easier approval of the establishment of Cultural Funding, thus allowing the allure of tax deductibility for private funding donations. As Community Radio is already restricted by the amount of sponsorship revenue it can raise, the only other source of income would need to be in the form of Government grants to meet the additional expenses of infrastructure, installation and training.

The presence of local Community Radio is vital for the dissemination of Government information, especially in times of regional emergency. Often, particularly for non-capital communities, emergency information is not broadcast efficiently to the local community except where a community station is on-air and has access to such information. It is therefore in the national interest for non-capital Community Radio to be available to broadcast at all times, and funding by the Government, and Departmental support, is therefore encouraged.

Ian Ogilvie  
President  
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