



**MINISTER FOR INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS;
TOURISM; CULTURE AND THE ARTS**

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Our Ref: 4034

The Hon Jackie Kelly MP
Chair
Standing Committee on Communications, Information Technology and the Arts
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Attn: The Secretary

Dear Ms Kelly

Thank you for your letter dated 27 January 2006, inviting a submission from the Government of Western Australia with regard to the Community Broadcasting Inquiry. In the face of increasing globalisation, the inquiry by the Standing Committee on Communications, Information Technology and the Arts is welcomed as a means for identifying how to better assist communities to share their local news and stories.

Community broadcasting in Western Australia falls within the auspice of the Government Media Office (GMO). I have notified the GMO of your Inquiry.

In 2005, the Department of Culture and the Arts (DCA) managed a one-off grants program (on behalf of the GMO) to provide support for this sector. The Community and Ethnic Media (CEM) Grants Program provided support to innovative programming and/or special capital costs. Through this fund, community, Indigenous and ethnic media outlets throughout Western Australia received a boost of more than \$1million in grants.

Based on the funding requests received, it became apparent that the sector is seeking assistance in areas such as:

- equipment and infrastructure upgrades/purchases (and user training);
- development of new programs such as community news, information, arts achievements and events, for television, radio and/or internet broadcast.

Of the 52 applications received, 16 organisations with proven track records in the development and delivery of community, Indigenous or ethnic media received funding. Of these, nine organisations were outside of the Perth metropolitan area.

Notably, a special grant of \$665,216 was made to community television station Access 31 for infrastructure requirements and local program development. Access 31 broadcasts in Perth, Bunbury and Albany, and focuses on local programming, local talent and coverage of local events. The channel is an important showcase for WA's rapidly growing film, music and drama industries.

A list of the successful applicants is attached for the Committee's information. For further information regarding the future of Government support for community broadcasting, please contact the GMO on (08) 9222 9888 or via email: admin@dpc.wa.gov.au

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sheila McHale', written in a cursive style.

Sheila McHale MLA
MINISTER FOR CULTURE AND THE ARTS

21 FEB 2006

Community and Ethnic Media Grants Program

Funded activities

Application closing date: 31 January 2005

Applicant	Funded Activity	Amount
Access 31	Contribution towards the production of a local news program, and the purchase of a microwave link system	\$60,593.00
Arts Radio Ltd	Contribution towards the upgrade of the on-air studio of RTRFM	\$48,682.00
Australian Asian Association of Western Australia Inc	Purchase of a colour digital photocopier and software	\$15,000.00
Broome Aboriginal Media Association Inc	Development of a series of radio and television segments depicting the Indigenous and non-Indigenous location names of unique sites in Broome and the Dampier Peninsula	\$43,240.00
Community Television Perth Inc	Contribution towards the purchase of urgent infrastructure and production of thirteen half hour episodes of a magazine style television program 'Kaleidoscope.'	\$52,560.00
Harvey Mainstreet Inc	Improvements to facilities at the Harvey Community Radio station	\$46,890.00
Juluwarlu Aboriginal Corporation	Infrastructure development: Purchase of digital equipment	\$25,010.00
Jurien Bay Telecentre Inc	Purchase of a high speed copy printer for the production of the local newspaper	\$5,200.00
Mingenew Community Telecentre	Purchase of a high speed copy printer for the production of the local newspaper	\$5,200.00
Mullewa Telecentre Inc	Purchase of a high speed copy printer for the production of the local newspaper	\$5,200.00
Multicultural Radio & TV Association of WA Inc	Refurbishment of studio premises and contribution towards the development of a multicultural youth breakfast show	\$62,390.00
Ngaanyatjarra Media (Aboriginal Corporation)	Installation of television broadcast equipment into 8 remote Indigenous communities	\$41,600.00
Palmerston Association Inc	In partnership with Albany Community Radio, development of a radio program aimed at Indigenous youth.	\$31,506.00
Wanneroo & Joondalup Regional Broadcasting Association	Purchase and installation of a new antenna and transmitter	\$10,265.00
Waringarri Media Aboriginal Corporation	Weatherproofing of Kununurra studios	\$21,236.00
York FM	Sound proofing of production studio and urgent maintenance of studio premises	\$5,428.00