

Holmes, Janet (REPS)

From: Ardel Shamsullah [a.shamsullah@bendigo.latrobe.edu.au]
Sent: Tuesday, 26 September 2000 4:17 PM
To: cta.reps@aph.gov.au
Subject: Adequacy of Radio Services

I would like to bring to the attention of the House Communications Committee a glaring inadequacy in the provision of radio services to non-metropolitan Australia. This concerns the failure to broadcast the Parliamentary News Network at signals of sufficient strength to be received outside the capital cities. Living in Bendigo, by no means a remote location, I cannot pick up, other than on rare occasions and extremely faintly, the AM signal for the Parliamentary network emanating from Melbourne. This is despite the fact that the ABC's 3LO (if I may still call it that), comes through loud and clear.

I believe that non-metropolitan Australians are being denied the right, formerly acknowledged by Parliament and delivered by the ABC, of immediate access to the daily business of the national parliament. The conclusion which some non-metropolitan citizens may draw from this is that, while it may still be 'our ABC', it is not 'our parliament'.

Moreover, in the times when parliament is not sitting, those living in non-metropolitan areas are also missing out on the opportunity to tune into a diverse, and often high quality, (so I am told) menu of radio news programs. In this 'information age', an excellent source of current affairs is apparently being delivered exclusively to the residents of the capital cities.

While I am uninformed about the technical difficulties and costs attendant on remedying this situation, I urge the Committee to give serious consideration to extending the reach of the Parliamentary radio network.

Regards,
Ardel.

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