



**Public hearing in Canberra – 16 August**

# Tuning into community broadcasting

The establishment of the National Indigenous Television (NITV) service will be the focus of discussions at a public hearing in Canberra this Wednesday. The National Indigenous Television Committee will appear before the Standing Committee on Communications, Information Technology and the Arts as part of the inquiry into community broadcasting in Australia.

The Australian Government last year announced that it will fund the establishment of an Indigenous television service from 1 July 2006. The National Indigenous Television Committee is charged with the implementation of the new service, provisionally named National Indigenous Television.

The NITV Committee is a voluntary, industry representative group which was formed by the Australian Indigenous Communications Association to develop an effective strategy for the establishment of a national Indigenous television service. The group comprises representatives from the Australian Indigenous Communications Association, Indigenous Remote Communications Association Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Corporation, Indigenous Screen Australia, IMPARJA Television and others with industry expertise.

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. Indigenous broadcasting is an important component of this sector and it faces particular challenges with the shift to new technologies and with pressures on spectrum usage”.

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 16 August**

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

**9.05 am National Indigenous Television Committee (Sub 80)**

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 Emily Tinson (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