



THE COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENT
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMUNICATIONS,
TRANSPORT AND THE ARTS COMMITTEE
MEDIA RELEASE

18 September 2000

Inquiry into radio touches raw nerve

An inquiry into the adequacy of radio services in non-metropolitan Australia has generated strong interest across Australia.

'Launching this inquiry has been like touching a raw nerve', said Committee Chair, Mr Paul Neville MP. 'We have already had an enormous response and we have just started advertising. I am not really surprised. Radio is hugely important to people in non-metropolitan areas.'

'Changes in the regulatory environment and developments in technology have led to substantial changes in the ownership of radio. One of the main developments has been the growth of commercial radio networks. The heart of this inquiry is on how these developments are affecting program content and quality in non-metropolitan Australia.'

'Networking has undoubtedly had both benefits and costs. We will tease these out and rigorously test the evidence on all the issues that are relevant to this inquiry. We welcome input from a wide range of organisations including the radio industry, Chambers of Commerce, Shire Councils, community organisations and individuals.'

'This is a broad ranging inquiry that will examine radio services provided by the ABC, commercial and community radio. It is laughable to suggest, as it has been, that we are targeting any particular station or program. We are a bi-partisan parliamentary committee and we come to this inquiry, as always, with an open mind.'

'We are calling for submissions from anyone with an interest in the adequacy of radio services from right across Australia. We will be travelling as widely as possible in regional areas to take evidence in the time available.'

Submissions to the inquiry should be lodged no later than 27 October 2000.

Submissions should be sent to:

The Committee Secretary
House Communications Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Advice on preparing submissions is available from the secretariat on request and on the Committee web site.

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/cta/index.htm>

For comment, please contact Mr Paul Neville MP on 02 6277 4940 or 07 4152 0744.

For information, please contact Janet Holmes, Inquiry Secretary on 02 6277 4601, facsimile 02 6277 2067, or at janet.holmes.reps@aph.gov.au.