



Tuning in to Community Broadcasting

Ways to support the Australian community broadcasting sector are discussed in a new report released today, Wednesday 20 June 2007 by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Communications, Information Technology and the Arts.

Currently there are more than 350 community broadcasters in Australia, broadcasting diverse, independent and local content that reflects the character of Australia and its cultural diversity.

This report has examined key management and funding issues in the community broadcasting sector. The report also examines regulation and sponsorship issues, the move to digital broadcasting and transmission fees issues.

Committee Chair, Jackie Kelly MP, discussed the value of the community broadcasting sector “There is no doubt that the community broadcasting sector is extremely valuable in our media landscape. The sector is the incubator of diverse and innovative programming, and is essentially the training ground for the commercial and national broadcasters”.

“However, getting the governance right is the key to a robust and vibrant sector. This report’s recommendations will ensure that the sector increases its management and financial planning skills, allowing stations to continue to broadcast their important local, diverse and independent programming” Mrs Kelly added.

The report, *Tuning in to Community Broadcasting*, makes a total of 14 recommendations, on key issues such as funding and management training.

The key recommendations to the Australian Government include:

- an increase of \$10 million in core funding, which will primarily fund station manager positions
- an increase in targeted funding, primarily to assist in the replacement of station equipment and infrastructure
- development of a guiding template for the structure of station boards or management committees
- an additional \$500 000 per year for four years, for the development and delivery of management training.

The report also calls upon the Australian Government to implement the recommendations regarding community television access to digital spectrum from the inquiry’s first report, tabled in February 2007.

The inquiry into community broadcasting was announced in January 2006. The Committee received 131 submissions and public hearings were conducted across Australia.

Copies of the report can be obtained by contacting the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4601, emailing cita.reps@aph.gov.au, or on the Committee’s website at: http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/cita/community_broadcasting/index.htm.

For media comment:

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