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**Submission to the Australian House Of Representatives
House Standing Committee on Communications, Information,
Technology and the Arts**

Qualifications: I have been involved with community radio for about ten years. I was an announcer and presenter on Wyong Gosford Progressive Community Radio, PCR FM. During that time I believed that I was serving not only my community of interest, The Central Coast Greek and Greek speaking community but also the whole of Australia. I have voluntarily broadcast live for more than 1000 hours on air during the ten years. I do not consider that my English is very good but my Greek is of a senior school level and I studied politics and economics at the University of Athens. My broadcast were mainly in Greek punctuated when necessary with English. I have often been called upon my community to explain or interpret statements in English about health or bureaucratic issues. My fellow members of the Greek speaking community have not all been as fortunate as myself to experience the same amount of learning. I have done this to try and help my fellow Greek Australians to harmonize into Australian society.

My migration to Australia was in 1961 and I married here in Australia. My four children are now Australian adults and all have Australian university degrees. They all speak Greek but their primary language is English. They take a lot of their confidence and self worth from knowing about their ancestral origins and as well as the advantages that they have received through being born and raised in Australia.

I have taught Greek language at community schools in Granville, Giraween, Parramatta and Gosford for the children of our community.

I am currently Secretary of the Hellenic Community of the Central Coast Inc., the main body attending to the needs of the people in the Greek community.

Submission: The primary reason for making this submission is that I believe that a great injustice has been committed by the Australian Broadcasting Authority. They have committed this not just once but twice in the last three and a half years by licensing Radio Rhema Gosford. My impression is that this has been blatant discrimination against the migrant communities and PCR FM. I can only logically conclude that this has occurred because of corruption through the

payment of either bribes, spiritual favour or promise or capitulation to foreign interests. It has not been for the building of harmonious communities or Australian equality.

It has negated my effort and been a slap in the face to myself and the other presenters at PCR FM who have put in years of effort to aid their communities whether they be Maori, Greek, Colombian, Chilean, Chinese, Filipino, German, Irish, English, Scottish, Aborigine or the biggest group of all, the one-third of the population, the Central Coast youth who are mainly Australian.

My aim on the radio was to entertain and enable Greek migrants and Greek speakers to maintain or fulfill their need to have exposure to their roots and originating culture. I can only say that I believe that all migrants, Greek or otherwise, at some point in time need to be able to obtain exposure to their origins. This contact is often in order to maintain their self worth in the face of excessive unwarranted white Australian hubris.

I mention that I am currently Secretary of the Hellenic Community of the Central Coast Inc. As a local community organization it gives greater strength and ability of action to better our community. However I have also seen the situation where such "peak" bodies can be usurped for individual's own purposes. I have seen similar within community radio. Very few people are genuinely openhanded and equal in the treatment of everyone. It is very important therefore that governments enable all people open, expeditious and equitable access to the resolution of disputes. In New South Wales it appears that the regulating bureaucracy does not have the wherewithal to facilitate remedy.

With regard to community radio and disputes either between the radio and the bureaucracy or the radio members and the ruling committee, I believe that some sort of ombudsman should be readily available to arbitrate in disputes. Obviously such a person would have to demonstrate a total lack of bias to anyone other than humanity.

I also believe that the government has been remiss in monitoring the operation and decisions of the Australian Broadcasting Authority. It should lead by example and apologize and give back to PCR FM its license.

Yours faithfully,
Doris Freris