

Submission



Submission to the House of Representatives  
Standing Committee on Communications,  
Information Technology and the Arts  
By  
Mitchell Community Radio Inc.  
Kilmore, Victoria

Mitchell Community Radio, OKR 97.1 FM is based in Kilmore, Victoria's oldest inland town. Kilmore is part of Mitchell Shire stretching from Seymour to Wallan. The southern part of Mitchell Shire including Kilmore is experiencing steady population growth.

The radio station offers a broad music program but with segments devoted to country music, jazz, classical and modern Australian music. We work with the youth affairs section of the Shire Council to encourage local bands and to provide airtime for them.

Primary and secondary students present regular programs, including Chinese programs presented by students at Kilmore International School.

We strongly support community organisations by promoting their events and interviewing their representatives.

Mitchell Community Radio has been broadcasting for 3 years and with its existing equipment can be received in most parts of Kilmore and some outlying areas depending on terrain.

An opportunity exists as part of a Shire Council project to relocate our transmitter to Mt. Hickey, which is much higher and closer to the centre of the Shire. This relocation would close to triple our coverage area with benefits to more towns and communities. It would also provide a vital communication channel for the local disaster plan. The cost of this project at \$10,000 is beyond our organisation without some outside funding, but we are nevertheless proceeding with planning.

Our sponsor and membership fees enable us to cover costs and proceed with our short-term objective of acquiring scheduling software to enhance the quality of sessions not having live presenters.

Mitchell Community Radio has huge potential for further development. The chance to relocate the transmitter is a most exciting possibility we would love to see eventuate.