



**GOLDEN DAYS RADIO FOR SENIOR CITIZENS INC**

**SUBMISSION TO THE INQUIRY INTO COMMUNITY BROADCASTING**

**HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION,  
TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS**

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA**

**MARCH 2006**

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## Introduction

Golden Days Radio for Senior Citizens Inc operates the licensed community radio station 3GDR in Melbourne. It concentrates on the needs and interests of the senior community. There appears to be wide recognition that the aged population in Australia is expected to increase enormously over the next 30 years. This increase is expected to place huge demands on government and community resources. The need to provide suitable facilities, that will ensure the welfare of this sector of the community, is growing constantly. Governments at all levels appear to be cognisant of these requirements and are considering various options designed to minimise, as far as possible, the demands that will be placed on their resources. The community at large is also becoming increasingly aware of the need to ensure a reasonable standard of living, comfort and care for the ageing sector of the community.

The Committee of Management of 3GDR presents this submission to the Inquiry in an attempt to outline the valuable role that community radio can play in supporting the aged community – **at no cost to Government**. 3GDR has demonstrated remarkable success in providing a sense of community to those persons in Melbourne for whom it is licensed to broadcast. The senior population, to which 3GDR caters, falls squarely within the “community of interest” that community radio is intended to serve. But the benefits gained by that sector go far beyond the commonly accepted role of radio. Feedback from listeners has shown that 3GDR provides a sense of “belonging” to the ageing sector of the population; a radio version of Helpline.

The “Golden Days Success Story”, as it has become known, is all the more remarkable when considering that it is one of the few, if not the only, community radio station in Australia that has never received any government funding. It has, through the wide ranging expertise of its mainly retired volunteers, generated its own funds and provided its own ongoing support. Yet it has state of the art facilities and production capacity beyond the reach of most community radio stations. This success could be repeated in other capital cities in Australia

To our knowledge, 3GDR is the only radio station in Australia that caters principally for the aged population. The purpose of this submission is **not** to seek aid or assistance for 3GDR but to encourage Government to actively promote the development of similar community stations in other capital cities and major regional areas. This does not have to involve any funding by government. If the 3GDR model is followed, all that Government needs to do is to encourage. And this submission is aimed at providing Government with suggestions as to how, at virtually no cost, it can encourage others to achieve the same outcome in other capital cities and regional areas.

We believe that this submission falls squarely within the terms of reference of the Inquiry, particularly those terms that relate to the opportunities and threats to a diverse and robust network and the content requirements that reflect the character and cultural diversity of Australia. The aged community still form part of Australia’s culture. However they are not well served by radio generally.

## **A Brief History**

In order to fully appreciate the potential of community radio in achieving the outcomes described above it is desirable to consider the way in which 3GDR operates and how it has developed.

We do not intend to review the history of community radio here as the Inquiry will be well versed on that subject. We merely highlight that one of the purposes of community radio is to provide community access to radio programming that is not generally available to the community by other, mainly commercial, operators.

3GDR was formed with the intention of providing the ageing population with the style of radio programming that was familiar to them during their prime years when they were living more functional lives in the community. 3GDR combines information, health and other community awareness programs, with a music and radio style that is reminiscent of the earlier years of radio in Australia and one that the elderly can relate to. The on-air slogan “music and radio as it used to be” sums up the genre that 3GDR presents to its target audience.

Nevertheless much of the community information broadcast is also of interest to, and is targeted at, other non senior members of the population. Our programming provides an audio “window” to the world for people living alone, whether over 50 years of age or otherwise. These include handicapped, hospitalised and bed-ridden persons, many of whom contact our station to acknowledge the benefits that our station brings them, particularly in terms of companionship and information on community services they can associate with. In many cases these people have little or no other contact with the outside world. It is a sad fact that a significantly large number of people in our community are living alone and/or suffer from a lack of contact with other human beings.

The management and volunteers at 3GDR have adopted a practice of referring (on air and in publications etc) to “the Golden Days Radio Family”. This principle is expounded by reference to the idea that,

- *“Anyone living alone and listening to 3GDR, has all of the other members of their Golden Days family listening with them so they are never alone”.*

In addition, the station provides all people in its target age group with programs that provide nostalgic reminiscences of their past lives. This is achieved by broadcasting music and programs that were familiar to them when they were younger. Radio has evolved over the past 50 years or so in a way that has left older people disenfranchised. Few either understand or identify with any of the present day radio formats on offer. From a commercial viewpoint the older style of programming is not acceptable and the ageing sector is left out. In Melbourne, 3GDR is their only source and the numerous overtures that we receive by phone and mail are testimony to that. Even the programming produced by the Australian Broadcasting Commission, historically aimed at the non-mainstream listener, has in the last 20 or so years developed more along the style adopted by the mainstream media, with heavy emphasis on “talk” and current affairs or

“magazine” programs. Our feedback indicates that current affairs and talk programs are not well received by a significantly large proportion of the ageing population, whereas direct information programs are. However, even if the ABC concentrated entirely on non mainstream content, it could not be expected to cater entirely for the audience that 3GDR caters for. At best the programs aimed at the elderly population would occupy only a short period each day and there would be no personal contact of the kind experienced with 3GDR.

But, more than that, the presence of 3GDR on the air gives the senior population a sense of “belonging” in the community. 3GDR’s philosophy is to give them the feeling that there is a community of people that they can remain a part of. This policy has received acclaim by many listeners who say that they are given a “sense of belonging”. We have received feedback from family members of listeners who are convinced that our programming and “sense of belonging” has allowed their relative to continue to live in the family home and considerably delayed the requirement for institutionalised accommodation.

### **How it came about**

It was against this background that the founders of 3GDR based their philosophy; to provide radio programs that were in keeping with the style and format of an era, now commonly referred to as the Golden Age of Radio, between the 1930’s and the 1950’s (inclusive) and thereby maintain a point of focus from which information and access could be obtained.

People, who were aged in their late teens and early twenties between approximately 1935 to 1965 are now aged around 56 to 86 years. A few commercial broadcasters cater for people approaching the lower fringe of this age group, but even they only produce a narrow style of programming, mainly restricted to music over a small range of years with limited playlists and very limited additional material that supports the lifestyle of older people. They do not have an overall commitment to a “community of interest” encompassing the senior population.

Our original application for a community radio license, in 1992, was intended for an area license in the Melbourne Metropolitan area. However during the process of test broadcasting, it was announced that there would be no more allocation of spectrum for wide area coverage, only geographic Licensed Area Plans were available. It was suggested that we seek a license for the Waverley License Area and eventually (in 1991) we were granted that area license. As such, we were restricted in the level of output power (100 watts) and the area to which we were to broadcast. Our application for renewal of that license is currently before ACMA.

3GDR is now a full time operation and on air 24 hours a day every day of the year. The association has 1730 paid up members. Our telephone switchboard is manned between 7.30 am and 11.00 pm every day without fail. Many of our listeners take advantage of the opportunity to call and speak to one of our operators. On average we receive around 350 calls each week. Some of these calls are from people who live alone and who are regular

listeners to the station. They phone in for a chat and to discuss the programs we broadcast or to obtain further information about community activities we publicise.

The success of 3GDR would be even greater if it were not confined to a local area but able to broadcast across Melbourne. The warm and positive feedback we have received includes some listeners who live outside our LAP area and who are unable to receive an adequate signal from us. They request information as to how they may be able to pick up our signal more effectively. Indeed, almost all of the very few complaints we receive are from people who cannot adequately receive our signal. We can only advise them that we are unable to rectify this situation for regulatory reasons. We have received several calls from interstate visitors (as well as a few from overseas) who have heard our broadcasts while in Melbourne and they phone us (often from their vehicles) to inquire whether there is a similar station in their capital city and to ask why not.

The management committee at 3GDR consists mainly of retired persons, many of them professionals, who have expertise in a wide range of disciplines, both inside and outside of radio. All are volunteers and receive no payment for their services. They were born and raised in an era when government grants were almost unheard of, particularly for activities that brought pleasure to people. It is the dedication of these people that has enabled 3GDR to grow substantially without any assistance from Government. There is no reason why this experience could not be repeated in other states.

3GDR is a true community station in the context of providing information to its audience that is helpful or vital to their well being. Appendix 1 contains a copy of a memorandum prepared last year by our Community Services Officer. It was prepared for discussion by management about the ongoing relationship we have with local Councils. It focuses on current initiatives between State and Local Governments in developing policies relating to the ageing population in the community generally. This memorandum was intended for internal use only. However it is included in the Appendix to demonstrate just one example of the manner in which the station reaches out to the community.

In July last year Kerrie Foxwell, Senior Researcher, School of Arts, Media and Culture at Griffith University conducted interviews with a focus group of our listeners, as part of a “National Community Broadcasting Qualitative Audience Research Project”. The group of interviewees was sourced using professionally established sampling and selection methods by the researchers. The result of that research demonstrates the level of support we receive from the elderly community and the dependence they place on 3GDR in their lives.

Attached, as Appendix 2, is a letter received from Kerrie Foxwell by way of response after they had completed their focus group discussions. The letter focuses on our listeners’ response to the musical content of our programs. However we emphasize that the service we provide to our audience goes beyond mere musical content. It is the musical content that provides the underlying attraction for our audience and to which they relate.

Having attracted our audience, we are able to provide them with information and access through various community groups and organizations in our area.

Appendix 3 contains an excerpt from a report by our Community Liaison Officer. It lists the program access and other community activities that 3GDR has been involved with, including Government at Ministerial level. An inspection of the list will give some indication of the breadth of our coverage of community matters.

The Member of the Legislative Council in Victoria for the Higinbotham Province, Mr Noel Pullen MP, is also a member of our association. The Higinbotham Province is in the area for which 3GDR is licensed to serve. Mr Pullen is very supportive of the activities of 3GDR and recognises the value of the station to the community. Attached (Appendix 4) is a letter from Mr Pullen outlining his views on the benefits of our station to the community.

### **Community Radio for the Elderly**

The story of 3GDR is exclusive to Melbourne at present. No matter what genres of other radio stations there may be in Australia (national, commercial or community) we are unaware of any that concentrate their focus on the senior community to the same extent as 3GDR. The 3GDR experience is the result of an idea by a few people at a time when community licenses were more freely available. Since then there have been many restrictions placed on the expansion of community radio and relatively few, if any, new licenses are granted, let alone those that cover a City.

Even though 3GDR was conceived and developed during more favourable times, it is remarkable that it survived those early years. It was only the tenacity of the founders that allowed it to continue. Today, those founders would find it impossible to realise their ambition and this is the reason why it is extremely unlikely that the experience will be repeated in any other State or regional area. It is only through positive action by Government that the residents of other Capitals would now be able to achieve the success that the founders of 3GDR have managed. The untapped resources of seniors in other Capitals could be harvested with just a little encouragement from Government. Even 3GDR's success would be much greater if it were able to broadcast to the whole of the Melbourne area.

We have received many phone calls from interstate visitors who either find the station on their radio by accident or are introduced to it by the people they are visiting during their stay. They all lament the fact that there is no similar support station in their capital city. It is our submission that Government should seriously consider the benefits of such community radio coverage in other capitals and major regional areas. It is only necessary to ensure that spectrum is allocated for one area wide license for such a community station in each capital city. All that is necessary for Government to then do (through the Australian Communication and Media Authority) is to advertise for applicants for such a license with the stipulation that it is to serve the senior population of that city. The selection process would choose whichever applicant was considered more appropriate and more able to fulfil the required role.

The criteria that would determine the genre of the station (and hence its programming responsibilities) would be found in the Rules of Association (constitution) of the relevant incorporated association. Providing the relevant Incorporated Association conducted it's

affairs in a similar manner to 3GDR, it would result in virtually no cost to Government. 3GDR would be willing to cooperate with, and assist, the relevant stations in other states especially during their formative years to ensure that they too could develop and succeed without any expense to Government. The bond that would exist between the various state associations would serve to strengthen the individual stations and enable a common purpose to be achieved, including the sharing of ideas and program resources, in order to better serve the target audiences.

## **Summary**

The aged population in the community is increasing and requires increasing amounts of support funding as the average age of the population increases. 3GDR has demonstrated how the lives of senior citizens in one area of Melbourne can be improved through the medium of community radio. In economic terms this improvement is substantial when compared to the relative cost of other measures taken by Government toward aged welfare. In fact the cost to Government is almost zero as 3GDR has shown that Government funding is not necessary. The only cost that can be attributed, is the opportunity cost of the frequency spectrum used.

The ageing population throughout the major cities and regional areas in Australia would be well served by a community station in each area that was founded and operated along similar lines to 3GDR but with area wide coverage across each capital city (including Melbourne).

The Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts has the power, under section 84 of the Broadcast Services Act, to direct the Australian Communications and Media Authority in certain respects related to the allocation of licenses. However it is unclear whether this power extends to allocation of spectrum. In order to achieve the above aims it would be necessary to allocate spectrum on an area wide basis i.e. across each capital city (including Melbourne). It may be necessary to amend the Broadcast Act to allow the Minister to direct that such spectrum be allocated. We are unable to comment on this. Our submission is simply that such amendment, if necessary, should be seriously considered by Government for the purposes we have outlined here. 3GDR is willing to liaise with, and assist, any similar community station that might be licensed to operate in other states and/or regional areas.

**We recommend that**, if necessary, the Broadcast Services Act be amended to allow the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts to direct the Australian Communications and Media Authority to plan for, and allocate spectrum in the FM band in each Capital City for the purpose of awarding a community radio license to cater for the needs and interests of the Seniors population in each of those areas and to advertise for applicants for one such community license in each area.

We have included, in our covering letter, contact details and other qualifications of the author of this submission. In the event that the Committee wishes to discuss any of this submission further, or would like further information we ask that the Committee not hesitate to contact us. Should the Committee desire that we attend any public hearing, we would be most happy to do so.



We thank the House Committee for the opportunity to make this submission and respectfully suggest that serious consideration be given to it for the benefit of the ageing population of Australia.

John G Clarke  
Deputy President / Manager for Future Planning  
Golden Days Radio for Senior Citizens (Inc)

# APPENDIX 1

To: The President,

From: Loretta Simmons, Community Liason Officer

In my memorandum to you of 10 February 2005, I briefly reported on meetings I had attended, up to that time, with Nick Tolhurst of the Department of Victorian Communities in Spring Street, and with his help, referrals to local Council representatives responsible for Aged and Community Services in their municipalities. Those earlier meetings focussed much around the 2005 Seniors Festival activities, but with further discussion, each Council expressed an interest in having a longer term and more encompassing relationship with Golden Days Radio (3GDR).

I encouraged Councils to affiliate with us on a more formal basis ,ie: payment of a sponsorship fee, (helps our costs); three took up the offer: Bayside, Stonnington and Kingston. The others are still thinking about it, but I am receiving ongoing information from them anyway, and as budgets are tight in some areas, I understand their position and asked them not to consider non payment of the fee an impediment to a mutually beneficial relationship in order for 3GDR to encourage community participation in our programming, and importantly to build community awareness of 3GDR.

Councils within this Community Awareness program include the following - as well as the above:

City of Monash  
City of Bayside  
City of Glen Eira  
City of Greater Dandenong  
City of Kingston  
City of Stonnington  
City of Port Phillip  
City of Melbourne  
City of Boroondara  
City of Darebin

## OUTCOME

Discussions with each Council brought out two main areas: CHALLENGES OF AN AGEING POPULATION and INCREASING ETHNIC DIVERSITY.

The demographics varied in each area, with the level of aged persons (Over 65s) from around 14% City of Melbourne (relatively affluent in most areas) up to 16% to 19% in Bayside, Glen Eira, Stonnington and Boroondara (who claim to have the highest level). Monash –(Waverley). Greater Dandenong. Kingston, Port Phillip and Darebin have ageing populations with a high ethnic mix.

Most if not all Councils are now undertaking Scoping Studies looking at the next 15 years focussing on the different requirements needed for services than in the past.

Lifestyle expectations of the 'Baby Boomers', Over 55s show they look forward to having more time for sport, cultural activities and becoming more involved with their communities, and as such do not place the same level of commitment to a home and garden environment as in the past, but being freed up to enjoy the above by low maintenance living, eg: high rise serviced apartments, or smaller dwellings. Moving along to the older members of the community, many are now selling the family home and moving into retirement villages, or luxury town houses in cluster/security

living communities. In the City of Stonnington for example, developers have bought up large properties and have created luxury living complexes, (*Menzies*) housing 400 – 500 people.

With the exception of the retirement villages and institutional care facilities who cater for the personal needs and entertainment interests of the older person, there is a risk, as ageing occurs, to those in high rise apartments or town houses to lose contact with the community. A number of Councils reported on the already high level of chronic isolation and loneliness experienced by older people, especially those living alone, many in public housing high-rise, the difficulty is in seeking them out, and this is where 3GDR as a community broadcaster is of significant benefit., as well as through personal contact with presentations such as those done by Heather Swift, Ron Abel and myself to highlight the presence of a radio station specifically in their interests

New innovative approaches to the Over 55s through to the latter generation is to integrate interests, and the traditional clubs and organisations, eg: 'Senior Citizen Clubs' are being phased out, -(a few exceptions for the time being, 'War Widows' where in some branches there are only several members remaining) "*Community Hubs*" have now been created where there is a mix of people from Over 50s onwards. There are benefits to all participants here – for younger members having mentors, to older members 'staying younger and more mentally agile'. Councils also look to their budgets where they can no longer provide the premises and pay the overheads for so many individual groups in the municipality.

Each and every Council recognised the value of 3GDR, and were full of praise for the professional programming already being put to air, and as an important and effective link to the community. Councils saw the benefit to them of using a specifically focussed broadcaster for the dissemination of information that would, *as we say*, improve the lives of not only the senior community but cater to the needs and interests of the 'Over 50s' in Melbourne also.

An example of where 3GDR can display Community Awareness is as follows: both Spring Street and Councils would like the opportunity to have interview time at 3GDR for a number of projects currently being heavily budgeted for. One area is Men's Issues", and this week the subject has again been raised with me during a meeting with Nick Tolhurst (Govt). He, along with Council representatives seek the opportunity to talk about this initiative that originated in NSW in 2001 and is now being taken up very strongly by Councils here: Called OM:NI ( Older Men, New Ideas) it is seen to be vital to establish this support group for men who for one reason or another go through varying degrees of lack of self worth and withdrawal from social contact, particularly after retirement.. MEN'S SHEDS is an area along the same lines as OM:NI, gender specific focussing on Men's health issues.

Nick Tolhurst has just completed his report on the 2005 Seniors Festival and is submitting it to the Minister this week. He has included 3GDR as a future sponsor of the Festival, and is keen to meet with us again to discuss the 2006 program. He sees us being positively involved, albeit next year the Festival will be scaled back due to the Commonwealth Games. In September this year, the "*International Day of the Older Person*", and the Premier's Award for the Senior of the Year will take place, probably on September 27, whereby 3GDR will be represented, according to him. City of Monash will also be having a special function on this day and has asked 3GDR to participate by way of having a promotional table at the main event..

While I am cognizant of the fact that our Licence Area Plan covers the Waverley License Area, we cannot prevent our signal overlapping into the greater metropolitan area. And it is worthy of note that we are heard, appreciated and deemed to be a wonderful entertainment medium and a responsible *community aware citizen*, flexible in our approach to our programming, while still retaining the uniqueness that has made Golden Days Radio a broadcaster par excellence. 3GDR is indeed recognised, and I think highly regarded by State and Local Government, and I have no doubt that these liaisons will be beneficial over time.

I am copying this to Tom Wilson so we may be able to establish a segment where the old Health Program was slotted, perhaps re-name "Your Council and You" or something along those lines. I have a number of topics that could be included, and the Govt/Councils no doubt could provide the necessary expertise.

Loretta Simmons

Community Liaison Officer

## APPENDIX 2



8 August 2005

Mr Alex Hehr  
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Dear Alex

As you are aware, we conducted a focus group discussion with Golden Days Radio listeners on 14 July, 2005. This discussion was part of a national qualitative research project investigating community broadcasting audiences. The project, *Regional, remote and radical: Australia's community broadcasting audiences talk back*, is funded by the Australian Research Council, the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, the Community Broadcasting Association of Australia and the Community Broadcasting Foundation.

The response to our broadcast announcement on Golden Days Radio inviting participation was immediate and overwhelming. We did not have enough places at the focus group for all respondents though we are confident that the mix of gender and age we selected is representative of your audience.

The focus group discussion gave us insight into a generation of audience members that are mostly neglected by mainstream media outlets and yet, are the sole focus of Golden Days Radio. One focus group participant summed up the general consensus of the focus group:

We are a unique group and an elite group of listeners and it may not suit the rest of the population, but it suits me. It provides the experience of really binding people because we can remember the struggles of our youth, like WWII and that binds us in that age group together as many of us listen to the station.

The music played by Golden Days Radio emerged as a critical component for these listeners. This music, especially from the 1920's through to the 1950's was a key reason for their strong commitment and dedication to Golden Days. However, it was not a matter of 'taste' and enjoyment though the simple pleasure of hearing familiar music on the radio was continuously discussed. It was, rather, the way this music reminded these older Australians of their youth, their parents, families, etc. The significance of the music was bolstered by its role in reliving memories. For example, one participant began by telling the group how the music on Golden Days Radio took him back to the first time he kissed a girl. This man, in his seventies continued

3GDR fills a void in my life which other broadcasters do not. It takes me back to when I was young, in my adolescence and early 20s. It brings back pleasant

memories about the things I thought and wanted to do at that time. Sometimes I am thrilled listening to it and sometimes I am sad.

Participants also emphasized the sense of family and friendship produced by the station. They were excited (and particularly passionate) about the accessibility of presenters. They knew they could ring the station and be put on the air immediately. This accessibility was not available from other media. Participants also noted the social events planned by the station with their only significant complaint being that there were not more.

Overall, it is evident that Golden Days Radio is performing an important role for the seniors population of Melbourne. Through music, hearing people of their generation on the radio and moreover, by broadcasting culture/s relevant to their seniors 'community of interest', Golden Days Radio emerges as a vital cultural resource. Their presence on the airwaves has given those older Australians lucky enough to happen upon the station, a sense of belonging and relevance in a society which too often ignores their vitality, experience and existence.

It has been a heartening and rewarding experience to work with Golden Days Radio and their audience. We look forward to presenting you with further results from the focus group in the coming months.

Yours sincerely



Kerrie Foxwell  
Senior Researcher  
National Community Broadcasting Qualitative Audience Research Project  
School of Arts, Media and Culture  
Griffith University  
Nathan QLD 4111

Associate Professor Michael Meadows  
Dr Susan Forde  
Dr Jacqui Ewart

## APPENDIX 3

Golden Days Radio (3GDR) has developed an ongoing partnership with the City of Monash and Aged Care Community groups within our LAP in order to be up-to-date with the needs and interests of the older community, and to bring to their notice the role that 3GDR as a community radio station may have in improving the quality of life through entertainment the age group served can relate to, and to disseminate information from Government, Local Council and service organisations relevant to them. In discussions with officers from City of Monash (Ian Swann – Recreation and Susan Wyatt – Home Care), 3GDR is fully cognisant of the ethnically and culturally diverse nature of the Waverley area, (there are 30+ ethnic groups resident) and indeed that the aged population overall is increasing.

To enable 3GDR to continually appraise and fine tune programming in order to be as inclusive of the community as possible, we have a meet and entertain approach with our listening audience. We provide speakers at monthly meetings of community groups, conduct displays and information stands at major shopping malls and aged care expositions and have 3GDR music piped through to community hubs, and even the day care buses. 3GDR music is also piped through at two major Melbourne hospitals. 3GDR encourages listener participation in programming through music requests and feedback by telephoning or writing to the station to express opinions on material broadcast. Two major luncheon functions a year brings together many of the listening audience for a social interchange.

A brief segment in 3GDR programming over the last year has addressed issues that are topical, relevant and informative sourced from a range of areas with the focus on the older community.: Interviews were conducted with the following:

The Hon. Gavin Jennings, MLC – Minister for Older Communities and Aboriginal Affairs

Nick Tolhurst: Manager Seniors Festival – on 2006 Seniors Festival and Day of the Older Person nominations

David Clunn of COTA – on OM:NI – Older Men, New Ideas – focus on men’s health and the challenges of ageing

Chris Reed of COTA – on Retirement Villages Residents Association & the Retirement Villages Act

Ann Sutton of Archicentre – on Home Renovation Service with free inspection and quotes from qualified architects

Christine Griffiths of Bayside Council – on Council Grants available to clubs and community groups

Paul Chadwick, Privacy Commissioner – on Australia Card, Surveillance Cameras & Working with Children Bill

Gerry Naughtin of COTA – on Elder Abuse

Grace Johnston of Working Connections – on Mature Age Job Seekers

Tony Pearce, Director of Dept Justice – on “ICE” (in case of emergency).storage of emergency contact details in mobile phones

Jocelyn Teh of Centrelink – on Financial Information Service, Support measures for Seniors, Pensions Loans Scheme and services available from Centrelink  
Patricia Reeve of COTA – on COTA Senior Achiever Awards  
Robyn Seymour of RACV – on Older Drivers and Road Safety, Medical and Eye Checks and Car Maintenance  
Nick Tolhurst: Manager Seniors Festival and Dept Vic. Communities – on UN International Day of the Older Person Awards at Government House and Seniors program for 2006  
Lola McHarg of COTA – on Women’s Retirement Workshops on Financial Management for Older Women  
Bree Heffernan of Melbourne Metropolitan Ambulance – on “4 Steps to Life” program. Understanding CPR (Cardiac Pulmonary Resuscitation)  
Shirley Hynes of Carer’s Victoria – on National Carer’s Week  
**Claire Williams – Healthier & Happier Living – Seniors Expo – City of Monash – Waverley**  
Margaret Byrne of ‘ECHO’ (Elderly Citizens Help Organisation) – on assistance to the disadvantaged elderly  
Angela Randall of HIMA (Health Information Management Assoc. of Aust) – on Medical Records Management and related Privacy Issues  
Liz Bostock of CG2006 – on Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games and Queens Baton Relay





## APPENDIX 4

21 March 2006

The Secretary  
Submission to the Inquiry into Community Broadcasting  
House Standing Committee on Communications, Information Technology & the  
Arts  
House of Representatives, Parliament of Australia  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Secretary

### **Golden Days Radio for Senior Citizens Inc**

I write to endorse the submission of Golden Days Radio (3GDR) to the Committee.

Around ten years ago I was twiddling the dial on my car radio looking for some decent music and by accident, I found 3GDR. Being over 50, I was immediately taken with the tone and warmth of the station and the dial has scarcely moved since.

I became a member of 3GDR and their contribution to the senior citizens of their listening area, which includes my electorate, is outstanding.

Not only does it provide excellent music covering all ranges but it offers programs of community interest to all ages including travel, gardening, health, motoring and local government matters.

I am particularly impressed by their engagement with a large number of community groups. I have had the pleasure of attending a gathering of such groups with the State Minister for Aged Care, the Hon Gavin Jennings MP at which 3GDR outlined its community programs.

3GDR is performing a very important role for senior citizens in my electorate and I believe a similar role should be afforded to other radio groups throughout Australia for senior citizens.

I would be pleased to offer further comment or respond to any queries should the committee wish.

Yours truly

Noel Pullen, MLC  
Member for Higinbotham