



Eastside Radio 89.7fm
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The Secretary
Standing Committee on Communications, Information Technology and the Arts
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

RE: Community Broadcasting Inquiry

1. The scope and role of Australian community broadcasting across radio, television, the internet and other broadcasting technologies;

- Eastside Radio is a community radio station situated in the heart of Sydney's eastern suburbs, Paddington Town Hall. The majority of emphasis of Eastside programs is on jazz and related topics, however during the week we have many programs dedicated to specialist music, community and arts programs, sports on Saturday and ethnic programs on Saturday and Sunday. Our aim is to broadcast high quality programming to the whole of the Eastern Suburbs community.
- We have over 120 volunteers at the station. There is a strong diversity in age ranging from 14 years old to 75 years old. Volunteers are equally both male and female and also varied sexualities. Our volunteers are extremely varied in ethnicity as we have over 10 different non-English programs. We try to make Eastside as accessible as possible. We continuously welcome new community groups into the station. We constantly have international volunteers around the station. Once a week new volunteer application forms are reviewed and new volunteers are contacted and invited to the station. We have a very detailed volunteer scheme which enables a variety of different tasks that suit a variety of different people.
- Eastside Radio has 2 paid staff. A Station Manager and a Station Administrator.

- We have 800 subscribers and 120 members of the Co-operative.
- We provide access for those people interested in Jazz, the Arts, Community issues, and local ethnic communities. All have there chance to be involved in on and off air programming.
- We have strong connections with all schools, various clubs, charities and all four of our local councils. For example each of our daily 'Drive' programs (community) deals with a different council in our community.
- We have been training volunteers for over 20 years with an estimated 10 - 30 people being trained every year. We provide training in producing, presenting, technical skills, administration, grants, music, subscription, website administration/content, events, fundraising, sponsorship and publicity.

2. Content and programming requirements that reflect the character of Australia in its cultural diversity;

- Our programming covers many various issues relating to our community such as jazz, specialist music, arts and entertainment, local news, community issues and fundraisers, ethnic programming and sport. We hold particular activities such as concert and movie screenings in order to bring the Eastside community together as often as possible.
- Our sport program highlights local sport. Our Arts program focuses on local art/theatre/events/exhibition/festivals. Our Drive programs focus on community organisations/community issues and current affairs. Our ethnic programming relates directly to the ethnicity of the program.
- We have programs broadcasted in the following languages : Thai, Macedonian, Indian, Bengali, Vietnamese, Chinese, Mandarin and German.
- We have 119 hours of locally-produced programs broadcasted every week.
- We are probably one of 3 radio community radio stations in our geographical area.
- We encourage and play much local and Australian music. We have live gigs on air and interviews with Australian musicians both local and well known. 25% is at least Australian.
- We have a 2 ½ hour program from Mon-Fri strictly dedicated to local and Australian arts and culture.

3. Technological opportunities, including digital, to expand community networks;

- It would be our dream to broadcast in digital. At the moment we do not even have computers in our studios and we do not even have digital editing. We are constantly asked when will we be able to have online streaming and pod casting. The sad realisation is that new technology require new equipment and training which of course costs money. We do not have the funds to explore such venture at the moment...very sad indeed.

4. Opportunities and threats to achieving a diverse and robust network of community broadcasters.

- Our annual income is around \$180,000.00. I'm not really aware of any income from the federal government. We receive around \$20,000.00 to \$30,000.00 a year from grants through the Community Broadcasting Foundation.
- Main sources of income are grants, sponsorship and subscription.
- Our main expenses are employment, administration, communication and production.
- If there were funding available we would update our equipment, finally get up to date with technical developments, improve transmission and our signal, move to bigger premises.
- The technical resources we need are a new antenna, computer based broadcasting facilities, computer in on air studio, a second studio, digital editing, training facilities.
- The main threat affecting our station is lack of money.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at the station on (02) 9331 3000.

Yours Sincerely,

Philippa Rowlandson
Senior Administrator
Eastside Radio 89.7 FM