

- **Community radio** has been a wonderful innovation and a great asset to regional communities. This has given the opportunity for community groups and individuals to provide music selections and programmes for the age-groups they represent. It has allowed these individuals to develop skills in programming and presentation. Many of them are retired people or are students or unemployed, so that they give their services freely, while at the same time learning a skill and maintaining an interest both for themselves and the community

In this way, the community is given the opportunity of choice to listen to a variety of types of music not available on other local radio stations.

- **Commercial radio stations** are generally of very poor quality, using poorly trained journalists with Americanised accents and poor speech delivery. News services are “gabbled”, without a break between news stories, which makes it very difficult for people with English as a second language to understand.

Although they rely on commercials for their viability, the constant bombardment of repetitive advertising makes listening unbearable.

Most stations try to include local news stories and interviews relevant to the area they service and also involve themselves with community fund-raising and activities.

However, their selection of music is commercially driven and does not provide for the range of ages and interests in the community.

Almost universally, commercial radio targets the young by playing modern pop music of doubtful quality, succeeding in brain-washing generations of our youth, who are ignorant of the many varied types of music which have been produced. This is done following the American tradition, in the mistaken belief that the young are the only people with money to spend on buying these “products”. They are missing a huge market of all ages, with different tastes in music.

- **Music has a very powerful effect on human moods, health and behaviour**, so that commercial radio bears a huge responsibility for the type of music selections that they play and the effects these produce within their listening community.
- **The isolated**, elderly, sick, unemployed, stay-at-homes are not taken into consideration in their programming. All age groups should be exposed to all types of music instead of being brain-washed with one type. Other programmes should provide mental stimulus and be of regional and rural interest.
- **Easy Listening** radio stations are now providing an alternative, by playing popular music of an earlier era, however, this could be extended to light classical music and excerpts from operettas.
- **Community service announcements** are generally well catered for with all local Bathurst area radio services.
- **Future programmes** should be directed towards providing for a wider age group (considering there is an ageing population in Australia) and should also cover a wider selection of both music and subjects of interest.

Yours sincerely,

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29/3/2001

Herewith are e-mail copies formerly submitted on typed sheets to the Chair of Committee,
Inquiry into radio services in regional and rural Australia.