

Secretary:.....

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04 OCT 2000

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STANDING COMMITTEE ON

COMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT AND

THE ARTS

Radio For All Australians Association Inc

To The Secretary of the relevant committee,
Parliament House
Canberra 2600
ACT

Carol L. Owen Secretary.
88 Murphy Street. Point Vernon
Hervey Bay 4655. Queensland, Australia
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Web Site WWW.RADIO4ALL.NZAU.COM

Friday 22nd September 2000

Dear Sir:

It has been brought to our attention that the Minister for Communications Senator Hon Richard Alston has asked the Parliamentarian Standing Committee to look into Radio Networking "Content" and it's effect on country and rural radio listeners.

Radio For All Australians Ass Inc., would like an invitation to put our case forward to the Standing Committee. We believe radio networking will remove programs that people in the country and rural areas need to hear.

As you are by now aware we are fighting for 6 million plus Australians, with which is the federal governments figures passed to RFAA by the Federal Bureau of Statistics. To be able to listen to programs written for those with reading difficulties, radio networking will destroy this idea.

(Sample) Live in Hervey Bay tune to Maryborough, Bundaberg or Gympie, 5 days a week, 3 hours in the morning you get the same program. Many times at night one will find radio networking has the same programs on many more radio stations. Only way they differ is with their own advertising.

Australian ABC radio has lead the way with radio networking.

New commercial and community radio stations do not have a steady constitution to run the types of programs that our members and indeed the 6 plus million people of this nation need to hear.

If you haven't please check the names of support, from Politicians, Councilors and people from all walks of life on our Website-----
www.radio4all.nzau.com

The members of our Association believe we should have the opportunity to put our case forward. Since we cannot be members of any blind associations (as according to them all) we are not blind or suffering any vision impairment. We now do not wish to have any representation by these Blind Associations or Organizations, as they do not appear to have our welfare in their hearts.

RFAA's President Kenneth Hall will be in Canberra at the start of the November Senate, he will be present till the Senates breaks. We urge you to arrange an invitation to enable Ken to meet with the Standing Committee.

Yours Sincerely
Kenneth William Hall / President.

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Communications, Transport and the Arts	
Submission No:	9
Date Received:	4 October 2000
Secretary:	Janet Holmes

RECEIVED

29 SEP 2000

SECRETARY OF...



Radio For All Australians Association Inc

(Paper Donated by Rexlex Australian Paper)

RFAA

WHAT IS RADIO FOR ALL AUSTRALIANS ASS INC?

RFAA is a dedicated and committed Association that sees a positive and vital need for a radio station for people with **reading difficulties** & sight impaired people of Australia. A broadcasting facility that will be received the entire land mass of this great nation. Facility to be operated by RFAA, in much the same way as the ABC is operated.

WHAT IS PEOPLE WITH READING DIFFICULTIES? (We all know what sight impaired, and blindness is.)

On the opposite side we will list many of the causes which can result in a person becoming **illiterate**, and sight impaired. Bare in mind that print disability is the **illiterate** & sight impaired. Many of the causes are the carnage on our roads, accidents in the work place, operations, birth. In later life as we become more dependent on glasses, eye deterioration will hit quite fast, with many diseases of the eyes. Also many children are for unknown reasons just slow.

Stroke-Cerebral Palsy-Multiple Sclerosis-Muscular Dystrophy-Spinal injury causing Quadriplegia / Hemiplegia-Leukodystrophy-Brain Injury-Amputees Motor Neuron Disease-Spina Bifida-Parkinsons Disease-Alzheimer's Disease-Downs Syndrome Sufferers-Cancer Sufferers-Hiv/Aids- **Dyslexia**, Eyeritis-Cataracts and Glaucoma. Of course there are many, many more debilitating diseases not mentioned.

*****Remember that at any given time this list could include YOU.*****

HAVE WE NOT RADIO STATIONS FOR THE PEOPLE WITH READING DIFFICULTIES, SIGHT IMPAIRMENT?

In all Capital Cities we have a radio station for the benefit of the print disabled. One in each Capital City they are known as RPH stations. This is fine, move 60 kms out of the city and these stations cannot be received. These stations mainly cater to the sight impaired. Remember in Queensland's large land mass we have only one radio station for the Print Handicapped, and that is 4RPH in Brisbane. RPH stations have done a great service, in Capital Cities only.

WHY RADIO STATIONS JUST FOR PEOPLE WITH READING DIFFICULTIES & SIGHT IMPAIRMENT ?

Normally operated commercial and community radio stations cater to the needs of people who do not require special needs and can enjoy the general music, or talk back and the news in brief. This is not sufficient for the print disabled, as these people require the news & indeed the whole newspaper read in full. Particularly births, deaths and marriages. They need all old and new plays, played to them. Also self help issues, community awareness, current affair programs, short stories, tourism. Also there are many educational programs that they could benefit from to assist these people to cope with everyday life. The list is far to long and complex to include in this flyer.

WOULD A RADIO STATION SUCH AS THIS BENEFIT ONLY PEOPLE WITH READING DIFFICULTIES ?

Of course not.--It would be of immense benefit for the people living in the remote outback Australia, the entire network of Australian Prisons. Bearing in mind many prisoners are incarcerated by the mere fact of their illiteracy. Benefit also passing to the huge amount of aged people & invalids in nursing homes & hospital system nation wide.

WHY NOT RFAA OPERATE A NATIONAL BROADCASTING FACILITY?

RFAA has done just that. We have taken our plans to the Australian Broadcasting Authority, with the support of 80% of all politicians. Hopefully 2000 will see a more positive result of our years of effort. Though a lot of ground work has been done, one heck of a lot more needs to be done yet. We are currently programming. A lot of financial support is needed. Bare in mind Government spends in excess of \$5.87 million annually on existing RPH, commercial and community networks Nationally for a very low profile programming to the print disabled. Also please note that \$40 million annually is spent on the SBS TV Networks Nationally which cater to an audience of 3 million new people to this country. **We have in excess of 6 million people with reading difficulties & sight impairment** in Australia. With such high unemployment in this country, just think the amount of jobs RFAA's concept will fill. This facility should have been operational 35 or 40 years ago. RFAA can operate at a cost of \$500,000 annually. Saving Govt. \$5 Mil.

DOES RFAA HAVE GOVERNMENT SUPPORT?

Indeed it does. Many of our members are politicians. We have knocked on the doors of every single politician which includes opposition members. We shall continue so to do. Every Politician in this country knows of RFAA.

DOES RFAA RECEIVE FUNDING GRANTS OR FINANCIAL SUPPORT?

We have certainly received small grants, missing out on the larger grants. We have survived mainly on the generous donations, members annual subscriptions. Unfortunately also relying heavily on the pockets of the management Committee. RFAA will continue to press for Grants and Financial Support.

*Please help us now, we need the **MEMBERS AND THE NUMBERS.***

Also any assistance financially, or materially, & active assistance. We need also announcers, technicians, research.

Please contact Pres. Ken Hall, 1 Hayworth St, Point Vernon, QLD 4655. Phone/Fax (07) 4124 7513
Or Treasurer Gary Owen, 88 Murphy Street, Point Vernon, QLD. 4655 Ph. (07) 41248684 Fax (07) 41247513.

**RADIO FOR ALL AUSTRALIANS--READING WITH YOUR EARS,
AND TURNING PRINT INTO SOUND.**

RADIO FOR ALL AUSTRALIANS

By Celia Berrell © 1998

Perhaps one day I'll see no more than blurs of light and dark. And want to read this page you see of alphabet and marks.

But will I have a friend nearby whose happy to impart the written information I may need to soothe my heart?

Until they teach the guide dogs how to talk and read as well, I know a sense of helplessness should trap me in its shell.

And would I be alone in this debilitating plight, when so many Australians can neither read nor write?

So tell me stories, topics too and interest programmes. And please provide a **Radio For All Australians**

This space is for Sale

This could happen to you at any time, or to a family member, a close friend, or maybe you are just getting older

- Brain Injury • Stroke • Cerebral Palsy • Multiple Sclerosis • Muscular Dystrophia • Spinal injury causing Quadriplegia or Hemiplegia Leukodystrophy
- Amputation • Motor Neuron Disease • Cancer
- Downs Syndrome • HIV/Aids • Eye Disease
- Eyeritis Cataracts • Glaucoma • Dyslexia
- plus many, many more (too numerous to list)

Reading With Your Ears



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Reading With Your Ears

Radio For All Australians Inc Networking



Turning Print Into Sound



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