

Submission: Radio Five-O-Plus.

• **The scope and role of Radio Five-O-Plus Public Broadcasting Incorporation.**

1. The station's community of interest is the steadily expanding over 50's population of the Central Coast region of NSW.
2. There are about 100 unpaid staff working at the station, aged from the late 40s to 80s, about equal in both sexes, of British, Asian, European and Aboriginal descent. No one is paid.
3. The station has strong community involvement, advises listeners of community group events, does live broadcasts from retirement villages and events of interest to the over 50s age group, attends and participates in a range of these. We give regular local weather, surf, boating, fishing, transport and road reports and interviews related to the above.
4. For the last 13 years an average of 30-40 have been trained each year.
5. We have trained local youth in general office procedures, and the blind in presenter training, school groups have been invited to look over the studios. One of our mature-age staff is sight impaired, a few gradually losing their sight, and some others partially physically disadvantaged.
6. We conduct regular studio Open Days, social and fundraising events to which the public are invited, as well as staff socials and training.
7. We have encouraged youthful participation in projects with seniors.
8. There is regular contact with the local media and council, and local government identities invited to give information that involves the over 50s.

• **Program content.**

1. Music and information for the over 50s age group, including national news, community news notices, health items, hobbies and the arts. Interviews with interesting people in these fields. Australian arts and culture are well represented.
2. We broadcast 24 hours per day, 7 days a week and all programs (with the exception of the national news broadcasts) are produced by us.
3. This station is one of only five catering for the mature listener in Australia.
4. 25% of Australian music content is played.

• **Technology.**

1. Our footprint is being more than covered.
2. A clear FM signal is being met within our broadcast area.
3. There are vast opportunities to expand technologically, provided funding for equipment and training of staff is made available.

• **Opportunities and threats to expansion.**

1. It is difficult to define a tangible budget because we have no constant or reliable source of funding.
2. Sources of income are sponsorships, grants (few and far between), fundraising (an ongoing task), and subscription fees (these are low to enable membership of pensioners).
3. Our main area of expenditure is technical. We also have to pay rent, electricity, telephone, postage and ancillary expenses.
4. If more funding was available we would be able to expand our training programs, which is vital because of the lack of continuity in jobs associated with the over 50s. We could also improve our service to the target group because of better technology (e.g. broadband, digital) and this would enable us to capitalise on these.
5. It is becoming necessary to seek larger premises to contain our activities and make the studio accessible to the physically handicapped.