

Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Communication, Information Technology and the Arts
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT

Submission 48

Narrabri Shire Community Radio Inc.
Re Submission for Issues Affecting Community Broadcasting in Australia.

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

Narrabri Shire Community Radio Inc. (2 max fm) has no paid staff at present, 50 financial members and 26 volunteer program presenters ranging in ages from teenagers to 70 plus. The genders are about equal and are made up of school pupils, business people, workers and retired people. We do make requests over the air for new volunteers to train as announcers and to learn how a radio station operates. Members of the management committee also invite people they meet to drop in anytime and view the operation and perhaps join up and have a go if they are keen.

Over the years I estimate we have trained 60 people for program presentation, i.e an average of 6 per year, 7 for the production of sponsorships and thirty in management by becoming executive members of the management committee.

2 max fm is the only radio in the town and the Narrabri Shire Council area. We have an open door policy to all organisations within the area to broadcast any announcements for them free of charge and to broadcast live interviews for them.

A local school visits the station regularly for the children to make announcements about what is happening and to give results of events. There are two sporting programs announcing coming events, giving results and interviewing representatives of sporting bodies. We also have an outside broadcasting van that attends various festivals, sporting and charity events.

2 max fm was established under the umbrella of the Narrabri Shire Council and has a strong relationship with the Council. We have worked closely with Council, Rural Bush Fire groups, S.E.S., Volunteer Rescue Association and Police during times of disaster. When needed we have maintained a 24 hour service to assist them.

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

2 max fm is the only station in the area to broadcast local news and information. In co-operation with the local newspaper, which is distributed twice weekly, we broadcast twice the following day the highlights of the news.

One hour each week "Deadly Sounds" and Aboriginal program is broadcast.

Each week 111 hours of live programs are presented. These programs contain a wide range of music but mostly Australian Country music together with interviews with local

people and visiting artists, sporting programs with interviews, many community and lost and found announcements.

We promote local and Australian artists by giving them airplay that is not available other stations.

When details are received for any arts or cultural event it is promoted by max fm and mostly free of charge.

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

We are concerned about the introduction of digital radio and its cost for no benefit to us. We have recently commenced online streaming on a restricted basis.

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

Max fm revenue for the year ended 30/06/05 was \$119,052 of which grants totalled \$12,822.64 or % 10.8.

Sponsorship was \$99,407.00 or % 83.5

Expenses for the year were \$81,970.25

Transmission \$16,316.82 or % 20.0

Sub Contractor \$19,254.71 or % 23.5 Acted as station manager and produced Sponsorships

Capital Equipment \$ 8,180.23 or % 10.0

GST \$ 5,166.00 or % 6.3

Loan Repayment \$ 5,000.00 or % 6.0

Power, phone, rent, insurance \$12,017.00 or % 14.7

Repairs & maintenance \$ 4,300.00 or % 5.0

Licenses \$ 2,062.83 or % 2.5

We are currently broadcasting from a small building with poor facilities and in an isolated position. There is no room for a second studio nor proper training facilities.

We really need the finances to purchase or long term rent a property at a better location.

We also need finances to purchase a backup transmitter.

Yours sincerely,

Anthony. A. (Tony) Parker
Committee member and acting Station Manager
17th March, 2006