

Secretary:.....

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STANDING COMMITTEE ON
COMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT AND
THE ARTS

Dear Sir, In response to the 'Radio Industry Inquiry' these are our comments.

Social Benefits:

The benefit of radio in the country is much greater than the city.

Many farmers listen while working in the cow shed or out for hours on their tractors. These people rely on the diversity of programmes.

Many programmes which were on radio have gone. Church services were once included, I believe the government had a requirement of a certain percentage to be Christian programming.

Hymn programmes on the ABC have gone and Christian programmes have become religious discussions of little interest to most.

Christian aspirant stations such as Central Victorian Gospel Radio fulfilled many needs giving good music, talking without coarse talk and programmes from children's kinder up to adult teaching and dramatized true stories and different news.

The future of Broadcasting in the country is a must. Community stations such as 3CCC Bendigo have helped quite a number of young people to get training which has then enabled them to obtain a good job in the radio or TV industry.

Many commercial stations are now networking, while this may save money for the company it has ended the jobs. Net working is not good for the listener, news may be from interstate.

Networking hinders the diversity of programmes: eg. most ABC stations have the same sports programme.

There was very little Victorian or world news during the recent Olympic Games.

While new technologies are coming it will take a long time for the rural sector to change, they have AM/FM radios.

The change to FM has only improved stereo programmes.

Talk programmes don't need stereo.

Why is Vision, the Print Handicapped Station, classed as a Community Station when it covers very little local content and is mostly made up of city or overseas world network,

In conclusion, our comment is that any new licence should go to those who are meeting the needs of the community and are bringing a varied and different message such as the Christian Stations eg. Melbourne Gospel Radio and Central Victorian Gospel Radio who we hope will be successful in it's application for a licence as it is very much needed.

Your's Sincerely,

Bob and Jean Willmer

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Communications, Transport and the Arts	
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Secretary:	Jane Willmer