



News Update

**Karin O'Reilly,
Jade Gatt and
Ryan Lappin
on the set of
Cheez TV**



Interpreters (NAATI) Level Three Interpreter for the deaf and hearing impaired. Using Auslan, the official language of the Australian deaf community, she will keep up with the crazy antics of teen hosts, Jade Gatt and Ryan Lappin.

Karin first appeared on Cheez TV early last year, her appearance being inspired by a hearing impaired fan of the show. The response that followed was so overwhelming that the show's producer, decided to invite her back.

Karin, who also teaches at Thomas Patterson School, will interpret every Tuesday morning, bright and early from the 21 January 1997!

Any comments/feedback are welcomed and can be directed to the show's producer on the following:

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BROADWAY 2007

ABA to participate in Paris forum on young people and the media

PARIS: As a result of the researchers' meeting at the World Summit on Television and Children held in Melbourne in March 1995, the French organisation GRREM (Research Group on the Relationship Between Children and the Media) has organised an International Forum of Researchers to be held in Paris from 21 to 25 April 1997. The title of the Forum is *Young People and the Media, Tomorrow*.

The researchers' meeting at the World Summit brought to light the need for researchers to continually evaluate the state of

their research, in terms of content, methodology and results. The Paris Forum is an opportunity for researchers from around the world to gather and review the state of research on children and the media.

The ABA has been actively involved in preparing for the Forum. The ABA's Chairman, Mr Peter Webb, is part of the International Committee of Patrons, while Mr Gareth Grainger, General Manager Policy and Programs, is part of the International Scientific Committee, formed to define the Forum program. The International Scientific Committee met in Paris on 24 and 25 November 1996 and the program is nearing finalisation.

The ABA has provided details of the Forum to its international research contacts through the International Research Forum (IRF) on Television and Children. The IRF was established at the Melbourne World Summit and is coordinated by the Research Section of the ABA. A bi-annual newsletter is published and the third issue, distributed to the 150 members of the IRF in December 1996, carried a story on the Paris Forum.

The ABA plans to be an active participant in the Paris Forum in a number of ways — as part of an international roundtable of regulators, through discussion of the findings of its extensive research program on children and the media, through sharing its considerable experience with the classification of children's programs and the operation of the children's television standards, and as a key participant in discussions on the operation of the IRF.

UNESCO is undertaking patronage of the Paris Forum. IRF member Elisabeth Auclair, President of GRREM, is organising the Forum and can be contacted for further details by phoning +33 1 44 30 20 01 or faxing +33 1 45 25 73 67.

V-chip — launch delayed in Canada

CANADA: Technical issues look likely to delay the launch of the V-chip in Canada.

The V-chip has been promoted as a means of allowing parents to block the viewing of unsuitable television program content by their children. Invented by Canadian engineer Tim Collings, there has been a strong push for its early implementation in Canada.

However, limited trials conducted on cable in Canada have identified a number of practical issues that need to be resolved before this technology would be effective. The main



problem is the need for a uniform system of identifying program classifications. As well as the local signals, Canadian televisions also receive signals from the US, some of which is retransmitted on Canadian cable systems. The broadcasters have suggested that there should be a uniform classification system in both countries otherwise the V-chip might be ineffective. The Canadian Radio-Telecommunications Commission has decided to delay the deadline for broadcasters to encode television signals to activate the V-chip until September 1997. The original deadline was October 1996. In the meantime, Canadian broadcasters will undertake more extensive trials.

In Australia the Department of Communications and the Arts has convened a group comprising broadcasters, regulators and consumer receiver manufacturers to assist it in providing advice to the Minister about how and when parental control systems might be effectively introduced in Australia.

FCC adopts digital television standard for the US

UNITED STATES: The Federal Communications Commission (FCC), on 26 December 1996, adopted a standard for digital television in the US. The standard is a modification of the

industry developed standard proposed for adoption earlier in 1996.

Within the spectrum space occupied by a standard television channel today, the standard allows for transmission of one or two high definition television programs; or four, five or more standard definition television programs; or many CD quality audio signals; or large amounts of data.

The FCC decided not to incorporate requirements for scanning formats, aspect ratios and lines of resolution within its standard, leaving these aspects for industry consensus. This allows scope for further developments in this area. Members of the film and computing industries had argued that a standard was not needed and would constrain further development.

Under earlier decisions of the FCC, existing terrestrial television broadcasters will be granted initial eligibility to shift from the existing analog broadcast technology to the more efficient digital technology, and will be allowed flexibility in responding to market demand by transmitting a mix of high definition and standard definition television and perhaps other services. In announcing this decision FCC Chairman, Reed E. Hundt, said, 'the flexibility that the digital broadcasting standard will allow ... makes it unavoidable that television broadcasting in the 21st century will be vastly different from television broadcasting of the 20th.'

Temporary transmission of programs by aspirant community broadcasters

For the period 5 November to 23 December 1996, in order of area served.

<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Freq(MHz)</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Date signed</i>
Australian Capital Territory				
Ethnic Broadcasters Council	Canberra	103.1 MHz	20/12/96 - 31/12/96	4/12/96
Canberra Christian Radio	Canberra	107.1 MHz	12/12/96 - 24/12/96	6/12/96
New South Wales				
Muslim Community Radio Inc.	Bankstown	94.5 MHz	23/12/96 - 10/1/97	18/12/96
2 State Community Radio Inc.	Barham	104.5 MHz	17/11/96	15/11/96
Bega Access Radio Inc.	Bega	93.7 MHz	3/1/97 - 8/2/97	4/12/96
Blacktown City Community Radio Assoc.	Australias' Wonderland	100.3 MHz	30/11/96 - 22/12/96	5/11/96
Macarthur Community Radio	Campbelltown	100.5 MHz	7/12/96 - 15/12/96	21/11/96
Macarthur Community Radio	Campbelltown	100.5 MHz	4/1/97 - 12/1/97	6/12/96
Cessnock Community Broadcasters Inc.	Cessnock	104.5 MHz	25/11/96 - 8/12/96	18/11/96
Coffs Harbour Christian Broadcasters	Coffs Harbour	106.9 MHz	3/1/97 - 29/3/97	4/12/96
Dubbo Christian Broadcasters Trading	Dubbo	94.3 MHz	27/11/96 - 24/12/96	5/11/96
Radio Five O Plus Association Inc.	Gosford	95.3 MHz	4/1/97 - 30/3/97	6/12/96
Kandos Rylstone Community Radio Inc.	Kandos	95.5 MHz	7/12/96 - 31/12/96	25/11/96
Wyang Gosford Progressive Community	Kariong	93.3 MHz	3/1/97 - 29/3/97	6/12/96
Maitland Community Broadcasters Assoc.	Maitland	104.5 MHz	21/12/96 - 29/12/96	2/12/96
Mt Heien FM & TV Upper Hunter & Liverpool	Murrurundi	95.9 MHz	4/1/97 - 30/3/97	6/12/96