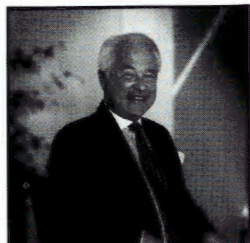




News Update

Should the media be self-regulating?



For the full text of Professor Flint's address to the Commonwealth Broadcasting Association's 'Parliament and the Media' conference, in New Dehli, visit the ABA web site <www.aba.gov.au> or call (02) 9334 7700.

On 16 February, Professor Flint addressed the Commonwealth Broadcasting Association's 'Parliament and the Media' conference, in New Dehli, India, on the question 'Should the media be self-regulating?' Professor Flint was invited to the conference by the Commonwealth Broadcasting Association and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

'The Australian system of co-regulation brings the regulation of broadcasting closer to the self-regulation the print media enjoys. Is this not more consistent to the standards of a democratic society, one where the various forms of media are converging?' said Professor Flint. But he noted this is subject to the power that the ABA has to reduce the degree of self-regulation where codes of practice fail to provide appropriate media safeguards.

'In assessing whether the current self-regulatory scheme for broadcasting in Australia has been a success, it should be acknowledged that some people clearly find it unacceptable that a breach of a code of practice cannot attract a penalty. It seems that the worst that can happen is that the ABA will take measures to ensure the broadcaster will be punished if the breach recurs. But this is significant. The ABA can dilute the degree of self-regulation allowed.'

ABA to invite applications for commercial radio licences in Sydney

The ABA will invite applications in late March for two new commercial radio licences—one in Sydney, the other in Campbelltown, west of Sydney. The ABA has set a reserve price of \$500 000 for the Sydney licence and \$100 000 for the Campbelltown licence.

Following allocation, the ABA proposes to impose a condition on the Campbelltown licence to ensure it remains a local coverage commercial radio service for the benefit of the listeners in the Campbelltown region.

The application fees are \$2000 for the Sydney licence and \$1000 for the Campbelltown licence. Companies interested in applying for a licence must purchase the information package: *Price-based Allocation of Commercial Broadcasting Licences*, available from 20 March 2000, price \$50.

Applications to be invited for open narrowcasting licences in Sydney

The ABA is to invite applications from late March for three new open narrowcasting licences in Sydney. The ABA has set a reserve price of \$10 000 for each of the licences.

Applications for the licences will close on 27 April 2000. The application fee for each licence is \$500. Those interested in applying for a licence must purchase the information package: *Price-based Allocation of Open Narrowcasting Licences*, to be available from 27 March 2000, price \$40.

For more information

on any commercial or open narrowcasting licence call Patricia Sharpe on (02) 9334 7827.

Licences will be issued under a price-based allocation system developed by the ABA. Under the system, if there is more than one applicant for a licence, an auction-style licence allocation exercise will be held at which the licence will be issued to the highest bidder. If there is only one applicant for a licence at the close of applications the ABA will issue the licence to the applicant for the reserve price.

C or P programs

Programs granted C or P classification between 15 January and 16 February 2000. Producers interested in submitting programs for classification should contact Nadia Mencinsky on (02) 9334 7840.

Program title	Origin	Class	New/ renewal	Decision date	Applicant
HI-5 (SERIES 2)	Australia	P	new	18-1-2000	Kids Like Us
PIGS BREAKFAST (SERIES 3)	Australia	PRC	new	3-2-2000	Southern Star Entertainment
THE NEW ADVENTURES OF OCEAN GIRL (SERIES 1) (Episodes 14-26)	Australia	C D	new	4-2-2000	Media World Features

C – children's program, CD – Australian C drama, P – preschool, PRC – provisional C