

Codes of Practice – Harvey Community Radio

Harvey Community Radio abides by the Community Radio Broadcasting Codes of Practice (the Act) (http://www.acma.gov.au/webwr/assets/main/lib410018/community_radio_broadcasting-code_of_practice_2008.pdf) and adheres to the requirements of our broadcasting regulatory body, the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) (<http://www.acma.gov.au/WEB/HOMEPAGE/PC=HOME>).

Harvey Community Radio proudly supports the guiding principles of the Act. We strive to fulfill all legal obligations and understand the importance of monitoring complaints and solving disputes by providing easily accessible policies and procedures.

Background

Community broadcasting plays a vital role in Australia as a unique sector operating together with commercial broadcasters and national broadcasters such as the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) and the special Broadcasting Service (SBS). The sector actively promotes community access and participation and volunteers are largely responsible for the operations of community broadcasting stations. The stations vary significantly depending on the audience and community interest they serve. These stations include those focusing on particular geographic areas, Indigenous, ethnic, Radio for the Print Handicapped, religious, gay and lesbian, and youth, as a few examples.

The *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* (the Act) outlines the legal framework for community broadcasting and explains the role the sector plays in delivering diverse media services that reflect a sense of Australian identity, character and cultural diversity. The Community Radio Codes of Practice (the Codes) set out the guiding principles and policies for programming on community broadcasting stations. They also outline the operational standards for stations that hold a community broadcasting licence. The Codes do not replace the licence conditions in the Act; they are complementary and we are legally obliged to follow both the licence conditions and the Codes.

Under Section 123 of *the Act*, industry groups must develop the Codes in consultation with the Australian Communications and Media Authority. The Codes may cover programming requirements, fairness and accuracy in news and current affairs reporting, complaints handling and sponsorship, among other matters. The Codes outline that the sector organisation representing the majority of licensees will be responsible for coordinating a review of the Codes. As such, during 2008 the Community Broadcasting Association of Australia (CBAA) coordinated the review process.

Guiding Principles

Community broadcasters are united by six guiding principles. We will work to:

- Promote harmony and diversity and contribute to an inclusive, cohesive and culturally-diverse Australian community
- Pursue the principles of democracy, access and equity, especially for people and issues not adequately represented in other media
- Enhance the diversity of programming choices available to the public and present programs that expand the variety of viewpoints broadcast in Australia
- Demonstrate independence in programming as well as in editorial and management decisions
- Support and develop local arts and music
- Increase community involvement in broadcasting.

Legal Obligations

Each community broadcasting station has legal obligations that relate to programming and station operations. *The Broadcasting Services Act 1992 (the Act)* outlines a number of licence conditions and some program standards that apply to all stations.

Key provisions in *the Act* require community broadcasters to:

- provide community broadcasting services for the benefit of the community and not operate them to make a profit, and
- continue to represent the community interest that it represented when the licence was allocated or last renewed, although a licensee
- can apply to change that community interest at renewal,
- encourage community access and participation in all aspects of station operations, from programming to management, and
- only broadcast sponsorship announcements, rather than advertising, which total no more than five minutes in any hour of broadcasting.