

NEWS

Joint Select Committee on Broadcasting Legislation

On 24 June 2013, the Joint Select Committee on Broadcasting Legislation tabled its report *Three Broadcasting Reform Proposals*, which examined:

- the abolition of the 75 per cent rule, particularly in relation to regional and local news;
- whether the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) should be required to examine program supply agreements for news and current affairs when determining whether a person is in control of a commercial television broadcasting service; and
- on-air reporting of ACMA findings regarding Broadcasting regulation breaches.

The report is available on the Australian Parliament website at:

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House_of_Representatives_Committees?url=jscbl/report.htm

The tabling of the report concludes the work of the Committee and the Committee has now been dissolved.

ACMA ‘Broken Concepts’ Paper updated

On 24 June 2013, the ACMA released an update of its 2011 *Broken Concepts* research paper, highlighting the continuing pressure on regulatory arrangements occurring from ongoing innovation and changing citizen use of communications and media. The paper is available on the ACMA website at: http://www.acma.gov.au/~media/Office%20of%20the%20Chair/Information/pdf/Broken%20Concepts%202013_Final%20pdf.pdf

Definition of documentary – Producer Offset

The Tax and Superannuation Laws Amendment (2013 Measures No. 2) Act 2013 received Royal Assent on 28 June 2013, inserting a definition of ‘documentary’ into tax legislation for the purposes of the producer offset scheme. The legislative definitions apply to films that commence principal photography on or after 1 July 2012. For more information, see Screen Australia’s Producer Offset website:

http://www.screenaustralia.gov.au/producer_offset/eligibility_format_documentary.aspx?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Screen%20Australia%20News%20July%202013&utm_content=Screen%20Australia%20News%20July%202013+CID_d497788e787ad8c1167fe7a89887bddd&utm_source=You%20Mail%20Me&utm_term=What%20is%20a%20documentary

Sports betting advertising in South Australia

On 4 July 2013, the South Australian Government announced that the SA Independent Gambling Authority “has approved the State Government’s push to fast-track a ban on the advertising of live odds betting in South Australia.” The regulatory instruments to implement the new rules will come into effect on 1 August 2013, which are expected to recognise provisions in broadcasting codes of practice to reduce and control odds promotion and betting advertising in live sports broadcasts. The full SA Government media release is available on the SA Government website at:

http://www.premier.sa.gov.au/images/news_releases/13_07Jul/liveodds.pdf

Material of local significance on regional commercial FTA television

On 9 July 2013, the ACMA announced it would examine the operation and effectiveness of section 43A of the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992*, following a ministerial direction. Section 43A currently applies to regional commercial television broadcasters in Regional Queensland, Regional Victoria, Tasmania and parts of Regional New South Wales. They are required to broadcast minimum amounts of material of local significance. As part of its investigation, the ACMA will consider whether section 43A should be extended to broadcasters in other regional areas, such as those in South Australia and Western Australia. Further information is available on the ACMA website at: <http://www.acma.gov.au/theACMA/Newsroom/Newsroom/Media-releases/local-regional-tv-content-under-the-spotlight>

Senate Committee Inquiry: internet simulcast of radio transmissions

On 12 July 2013, the Senate Environment and Communications Reference Committee tabled the report of its inquiry into the effectiveness of current regulatory arrangements in dealing with the simultaneous transmission of radio programs using the broadcasting services bands and the Internet. The report is available on the Committee's website at: http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate_Committees?url=ec_ctte/simulcast_regulation/report/index.htm

CONFERENCES & EVENTS

ASTRA Awards

The 11th Annual ASTRA Awards will be held on Thursday 25 July 2013 in Sydney. For more information see the ASTRA Awards site at: <http://www.astra.org.au/Astra-Awards/Home>

ASTRA Spotlight Event – Federal Election

On 22 August 2013, ASTRA's Spotlight Event on the Federal Election will featuring former communications ministers Graham Richardson and Helen Coonan, Mandy Pattinson of Discovery and Stephen Brook from *The Australian*. For more information see the ASTRA website at: <http://www.astra.org.au/Menu/Events/ASTRA-Spotlight>

ASTRA ACTIVITY

- **ACMA Contemporary Community Safeguards Inquiry (CCSI)** – ASTRA made a submission to the ACMA's CCSI Issues Paper on 15 July 2013. ASTRA members have also been participating in the ACMA's series of public forums as part of its inquiry into contemporary community safeguards for broadcasting codes of practice. Further information on the Inquiry is available on the ACMA website at: <http://www.acma.gov.au/Citizen/Consumer-info/Rights-and-safeguards/Community-safeguards-inquiry/have-your-say-on-the-broadcasting-codes-get-involved>
- **Odds promotion in sports broadcasts** – ASTRA is working with the ACMA and the Government to finalise amendments to the codes of practice for subscription television and radio to reduce and control live odds promotion in sports broadcasts. The amendments will be consistent with the decision of the Council of Australian Governments in May 2011 in relation to live odds promotion, and a further announcement of the Prime Minister and the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy on 26 May 2013.
- **Long term spectrum arrangements for television outside broadcasts (TOB) in alternative bands to the 2.5 GHz band** – ASTRA continues to work with the Government, the ACMA and other stakeholders to ensure a sustainable long term solution for TOB spectrum arrangements. ASTRA's

proposal for equitable TOB spectrum sharing was submitted to the ACMA in June 2012 and is available on the Submissions page of the ASTRA website.

- **ASTRA Codes Review** – ASTRA continues to work with the ACMA on a small number of outstanding issues relating to the current draft Subscription Broadcast Television, Subscription Narrowcast Television and Subscription Narrowcast Radio Codes of Practice, and hopes to have the codes considered for registration very shortly.

ASTRA submissions are available on the ASTRA website at:

<http://www.astra.org.au/Menu/Policy/Overview/Submissions>

DISCUSSION PAPERS/REQUESTS FOR COMMENT

Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) Consultation Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) - Regulating the advertising of therapeutic goods to the general public

The purpose of this Consultation RIS is to seek public comment to help inform the Australian Government in decision making on proposed regulatory reforms to improve the management of public health risks in relation to the advertising of therapeutic goods to the general public. This Consultation RIS: describes the existing regulatory framework; documents problems associated with the existing regulatory framework; outlines the objectives for reform; suggests proposals for reform; and invites comments on likely impacts of implementation of the suggested proposals. After consideration of public comment on this Consultation RIS, the TGA intends to prepare a final RIS to assist Government consideration of the next steps. Submissions close **19 July 2013**. Further information on the TGA website at: <http://www.tga.gov.au/newsroom/consult-advertising-ris-130531.htm>

Australian Law Reform Commission – Copyright and the Digital Economy – Discussion Paper

On 6 June 2013, the Australian Law Reform Commission released a discussion paper commencing the second stage in the public consultation processes for its inquiry into copyright and the digital economy. It highlights ALRC thinking to date and presents proposals for law reform. The closing date for submissions is **31 July 2013**. The discussion paper is available on the ALRC website at: <http://www.alrc.gov.au/publications/copyright-and-digital-economy-dp-79>