



**Public hearing in Canberra – 6 September**

# Tuning into community broadcasting

The contributions made to community broadcasting and funding issues for the Christian broadcasting sector will be the focus of discussions at a public hearing in Canberra this Wednesday. The Association of Christian Broadcasters will appear before the Standing Committee on Communications, Information Technology and the Arts as part of the inquiry into community broadcasting in Australia.

Formed in 1978, the Association of Christian Broadcasters is the peak body representing Christian broadcasting in Australia. The organisation represents its members to all government and non-government industry bodies. There are currently 33 full time Christian community radio stations operating throughout Australia.

The Association claims that the lack of allocated funding for the co-ordination of the Christian broadcasting sector causes stress and disadvantage for Christian stations, and seeks to redress this issue through the partial funding of its secretariat and for the coordination of national projects.

Committee Chair Jackie Kelly said “Community radio and television is a dynamic sector in Australia and provides vital services to many remote, disadvantaged and special interest groups. Christian broadcasting is an important component of this sector and like many community broadcasters, it faces particular challenges concerning funding and the shift to new technologies”.

She added “The Committee has been inspired by the passion of many community broadcasters and the work of the volunteers that support them. The inquiry is looking to ensure that Australia maintains the vibrancy and diversity of community broadcasting”.

The inquiry into community broadcasting was referred by the Federal Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, Senator Helen Coonan. The Committee is investigating a range of issues including content and programming requirements, cultural diversity, meeting the needs of special interest groups, and technological opportunities and threats.

## **Public Hearing Program – Wednesday 6 September**

**Venue:** Committee Room 2R2, Parliament House, Canberra

**9.05 am Association of Christian Broadcasters (Sub 106)**

Further details on the inquiry, including the terms of reference, membership of the Committee and advice on making submissions can be obtained on the Committee’s website at [www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/cita](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/cita) or by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4601 or emailing [cita.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:cita.reps@aph.gov.au).

**For media comment**, please contact Emily Tinson (Jackie Kelly’s media officer) on (02) 6277 2369 or (02) 4732 2844

**For background information**, please contact the Committee Secretary, on (02) 6277 4601