

COMMUNITY
RADIO
FEDERATION

Correspondence:

The Secretary (C.R.F.),
P.O. Box 252,
Box Hill, 3128.

14th August, 1974.

Minister for the Media

Dear Senator McClelland,

Registration of Intention to apply
for a Public Broadcasting Licence.

The Community Radio Federation (Melbourne) wishes to register its intention to apply for a public broadcasting licence for a transmission area encompassing the Melbourne community (Melbourne Metropolitan Regional Area).

It is understood that such an application would be in keeping with the policies of the Australian Government which encourage community involvement in the radio media and encourage the establishment of community radio stations to meet specific social and cultural needs in the community.

These policies have been expressed through the Federal Cabinet's acceptance, in principle, of the recommendations of the P.M. Inquiry (McLean Report) and the Minister's statement opening the Media Department's Conference of 3rd & 4th July, '74.

Background:

The Community Radio Federation, (C.R.F.), is a federation of community groups concerned with the establishment and operation of an independent, non-profit radio station to enable groups and persons representing a wide range of community interests and concerns to have regular communication with the Melbourne metropolitan region. Further details are given in the paper presented by the C.R.F. at the Media Department's recent Public Broadcasting Conference - copy attached to this letter.

Type of Licence sought:

The licence should allow transmission of a general interest program (including music), on a power of 500-1,000 watts, with a frequency allocation in the A.M. broadcast band, preferably near the top end of the band (1,400 -1,600 kHz). This would provide adequate coverage of the Melbourne metropolitan region and would not impose prohibitive antenna, site and equipment costs. Licencing under the Wireless and Telegraphy Act is preferred to licencing under the Broadcast and T.V. Act, since the latter would impose unnecessarily rigid technical and program strictures on community radio groups.

Financial and Technical Resources:

It is the philosophy of the C.R.F. to develop its own independent sources of finance, programming, technical expertise and equipment. These resources will be obtained through its member groups and interested individual subscribers. The feasibility of significant subscriber financial support has been established by the Adelaide University Radio Station with 2,000 subscribers paying £10/year, Music Broadcasting Society of Vic., which has 5,000 subscribers paying £10 min/year and overseas community stations such as WBAI (New York), which has 8,000 subscribers paying \$24/year.

The C.R.F. has a technical advisory committee comprised of three professionally qualified radio engineers, four technicians holding Certificates of Technology and four licenced radio amateurs. One of the engineers has had experience with the WBAI community radio station in New York City.

The C.R.F. has obtained a 500 watt transmitter (A.M.) suitable for the broadcast band and a control console, with replacement value of £10,000. Work is currently proceeding on development of studio mixing and control facilities.

Legal Entity:

The C.R.F. has engaged the legal firm of Phillips, Fox and Masel to provide the constitution and articles of incorporation in accordance with the principles set out in Appendix A (Minutes of Inaugural Meeting), copy attached. The C.R.F. will then be established as a legally responsible body for the purposes of holding a broadcasting licence.

The C.R.F. has established a savings bank account with the State Savings Bank of Victoria, Box Hill Branch.

Formal Application For A Licence:

This letter registers the intent of the C.R.F. to apply for a public broadcasting licence for a Melbourne Metropolitan Regional Station under the conditions for establishment of community radio.

We would be pleased to receive from you details of the formalities and procedures required for a formal application as soon as these have been established.

yours faithfully,

B. Ramsden

(B. Ramsden)

Secretary-C.R.F.