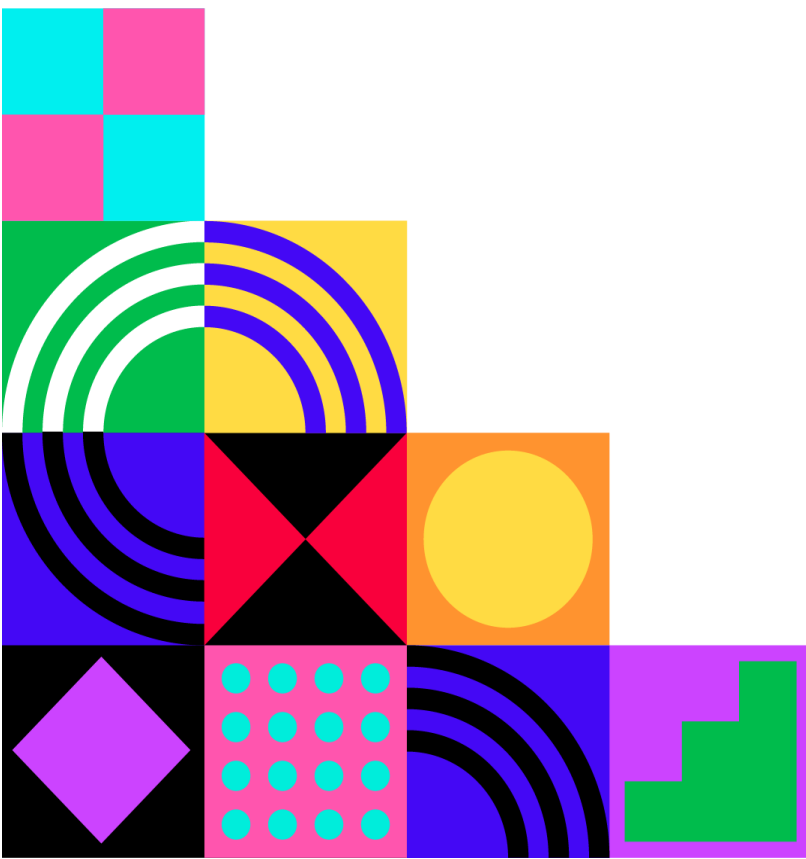


CBAA

The Community Radio Network Policy

June 2024



THE COMMUNITY RADIO NETWORK POLICY

Approved by	CBAA Board
Date	27 February 2009
Reviewed and Amended	1 June 2024
Scope – who covered	CBAA Staff
Scope – in relation to	The operations of CRN
Prepared by	CBAA

Purpose

The Community Radio Network (CRN) is the CBAA's content distribution service established in 1993 to deliver content across a variety of different platforms and assist community radio stations by providing additional programming to meet the needs and interests of their diverse communities. The CRN plays a key role in assisting with capacity for the community radio sector. The purpose of this policy is to inform the sector of the responsibilities and obligations of the CBAA.

Policy

In delivering the Community Radio Network, the CBAA will:

- a) aggregate program content that assists stations to meet the needs and interests of their diverse communities with content that will:
 - i) promote harmony and diversity and contribute to an inclusive, cohesive, and culturally diverse Australian community;
 - ii) pursue the principles of democracy, access and equity, especially for people and issues not adequately represented in other media;
 - iii) enhance the diversity of programming choices available to the public and present programs that expand the variety of viewpoints broadcast in Australia;
 - iv) demonstrate independence in programming as well as in editorial and management decisions;
 - v) support and develop local arts and culture; and/or
 - vi) increase community involvement in broadcasting
- b) maintain a commitment to broadcast the highest possible audio quality per CRN Technical Delivery Specifications with a minimum reliability rate of 99.5%.
- c) set program targets that include:
 - i) 70% of total programs from community radio stations
 - ii) 40% of music from Australian artists
 - iii) Programming is made by 40% Men, 40% Women and 20% by any and no gender, including gender diverse.
 - iv) Prioritising First Nations content.
- d) adhere to the Codes of Practice, Broadcasting Services Act 1992 as well as:
 - i) broadcast music free of expletives during the hours of 0600 and 2000 AEDT/AEST.
 - ii) Insert a harsh language sting ahead of all programs containing expletives.

- e) provide a fair and impartial method of program selection and review, with CRN staff working closely with producers to ensure programs continue to meet criteria;
- f) provide mechanisms for subscribers and the sector to participate in decisions about the Network's programming and operations (see [Member and Stakeholder Engagement Framework](#)).

Monetisation of CRN Content

From time-to-time CBAA will seek income to supplement subscriber costs and decisions are guided by the following principles:

- (a) *Sale of airtime to external program providers.* The sale of airtime on CRN will only be sold to programs that do not displace quality CRN approved programs from within the sector and with sponsorship that does not influence the program content or editorial stance as per the [Community Broadcasting Sponsorship Guidelines 2008](#).
- (b) *Sale of embedded sponsorship airtime in CRN-produced programs.* Program makers are permitted to sell up to 50% of available sponsorship time to offset their production costs. This also applies to CBAA-produced programs. In both these cases, subscribing stations do not have the discretion to broadcast the programs without the associated sponsorship. In the case of short programs, segments, reports or news, the 50% of available sponsorship time limit for program makers will apply pro rata.
- (c) *Production and distribution fees for community service announcements.* Community service announcements must have intrinsic programming values that add value to community stations, that uphold and promote the Codes of Practice and that meet CRN standards of production and presentation.
- (d) *Receipt of grants from philanthropic and government bodies for program production and broadcast.* CBAA may seek grants for the production and broadcast of programs, meet the program selection criteria and uphold the Codes of Practice.