

NEWS

Senate Inquiry into the National Classification Scheme – Government response

On 16 August 2012, the Government tabled its response to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee Inquiry into the National Classification Scheme. Further information, including the Committee's report and the Government's response, is available on the Parliament of Australia website at:

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate_Committees?url=legcon_ctte/classification_board/index.htm

Media RING Indigenous Employment Strategy

On 22 August 2012, the Minister for Indigenous Employment and Economic Development, Julie Collins and the Minister for the Arts, Simon Crean, launched the Media RING Indigenous Employment Strategy. The Media Reconciliation Industry Network Group (RING) is a collective of media organisations, producers and funding and training bodies which aims to drive practical measures to support and promote reconciliation in the media sector. ASTRA and a number of ASTRA members are involved in the Media RING. Further details on the Indigenous Employment Strategy is available at: <http://mediaring.org.au/2012/08/23/media-release-sapphires-stars-shine-at-parliament-house/>

ACMA research on Olympics coverage

The Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) has announced that, over the coming weeks, it will be publishing a series of short research articles on how Australian audiences accessed content from the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics in a converging media and communications market. Further information on the ACMA Engage website at:

<http://engage.acma.gov.au/how-did-australians-follow-the-london-2012-olympics/#>

ASTRA ACTIVITY

- **NSW Creative Industries Taskforce** – On 17 August 2012, ASTRA made a submission to the NSW Creative Industries Taskforce in relation to the Creative Industries Action Plan. Further information on the NSW Creative Industries Action Plan is available at: <http://www.business.nsw.gov.au/doing-business-in-nsw/industry-action-plans/creative-industries>
- **Captioning legislation** – ASTRA is in consultation with the ACMA regarding the Authority's approach to captioning obligations on STV licensees under recent amendments to the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992*. An outline of the ACMA's approach to the new provisions is available on the ACMA website at: http://www.acma.gov.au/WEB/STANDARD/pc=PC_410404

- **ACMA: Review of the 2.5 GHz band and long-term arrangements for ENG—conversion plan** – On 27 August 2012, ASTRA made a short submission to the ACMA’s request for comment on the regulatory and technical framework for the conversion of apparatus licences for TOB use in the 2.5 GHz band to spectrum licenses.
- **ACMA: Spectrum Outlook 2012-2016** – On 30 August 2012, ASTRA made a submission to the ACMA’s Five-Year Spectrum Outlook.
- **Anti-siphoning legislation** – ASTRA and its members have continued active consultation with relevant stakeholders on aspects of legislation to reform the anti-siphoning scheme, currently before Parliament.
- **Live odds in sports broadcasts** – ASTRA is in ongoing discussions with the Government and the ACMA regarding the inclusion of provisions dealing with live odds in sports broadcasts in the ASTRA Codes of Practice. On 29 June 2012, the Government announced an agreement with broadcasters on measures to reduce and control the promotion of live odds, available here: http://www.minister.dbcde.gov.au/media/media_releases/2012/106
- **ASTRA Codes Review** – ASTRA is currently considering submissions made during the consultation process, as well as the impact of the Government’s announcement of 29 June 2012 regarding live odds in sports broadcasts.

Public submissions by ASTRA are available on the ASTRA website at:

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

DISCUSSION PAPERS/REQUESTS FOR COMMENT

Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) Inquiry: Copyright and the Digital Economy – Issues Paper

Under the Terms of Reference for the Copyright Inquiry, the ALRC is to consider whether exceptions and statutory licences in the *Copyright Act 1968* are adequate and appropriate in the digital environment and whether further exceptions should be recommended. On 20 August 2012, the ALRC released an Issues Paper to help frame discussion and encourage public consultation at an early stage. Submissions close **16 November 2012**. Further information is available on the ALRC website at: <http://www.alrc.gov.au/inquiries/copyright-and-digital-economy>