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YARRA VALLEY FM

## Programming policy

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### Purpose

To encourage programming that reflects our community interest and guiding principles and obligations, including a legislated quota of Australian music and the broadcasting of a diverse range of musical and spoken content.

### Programming balance

The station aims to provide a degree of consistency of sound and listener expectations by grouping its programs into the following categories:

- Content of local significance: Priority will be given to material hosted and produced in our studios (or as outside broadcast) that is of local significance because it relates to a person, community organisation or event in the licence area, or it relates to a social, economic, political or cultural issue that affects one or more communities in the geographic licence area
- Feature programs, outside broadcasts, schools programs and live performances
- Weekday day-time programs based on upbeat, easy listening music and talk aimed at a broad audience base
- Evening and weekend programs of general or special interest, for example, rock, pop, beats, blues, soul, classical, country, folk, jazz, ambient, comedy, spoken word, etc.
- Overnight and gap-filler programs that are produced through a locally programmed automated system

### Community standards and legal obligations

Our community radio station will not broadcast material that may:

- incite, encourage, or present for its own sake any violence or brutality
- mislead or alarm listeners by simulating news or events
- present as desirable the use of illegal drugs, the misuse of tobacco or alcohol as well as other harmful substances
- glamorise, sensationalise, or present suicide as a solution to life problems. In particular, broadcast material should not provide explicit details about the method and/or location of a suicide attempt or death.

We will attempt to avoid censorship where possible. However, in our programming decisions we will consider our community interest, context, degree of explicitness, the possibility of alarming the listener, the potential for distress or shock, prevailing Indigenous laws or community standards and the social importance of the broadcast.

We will not broadcast material that is likely to stereotype, incite, vilify, or perpetuate hatred against, or attempt to demean, any person or group, on the basis of ethnicity, nationality, race, language, gender, sexuality, religion, age, physical or mental ability, occupation, cultural belief or political affiliation.

This requirement is not intended to prevent the broadcast of material which is factual, or the expression of genuinely held opinion in a news or current affairs program or in the legitimate context of a humorous, satirical or dramatic work.

We will have programming practices that protect children from harmful material but will avoid concealing the real world from them.

We will follow applicable privacy laws by:

- respecting people's legitimate right to protection from unjustified use of material which is obtained without consent or through an invasion of privacy
- only broadcasting the words of an identifiable person where:
  - that person has been told in advance that the words may be broadcast, or
  - it was clearly indicated at the time the recording was made that the material would be broadcast, or
  - in the case of words that have been recorded without the knowledge of a person, that person has indicated their agreement prior to broadcast.

News, current affairs, including news updates and promotions, documentaries, feature programs and interviews shall:

- provide access to views not adequately represented by other broadcasting sectors
- present factual material accurately and ensure that reasonable efforts are made to correct substantial errors of fact as quickly as possible
- clearly distinguish factual material from commentary and analysis
- present news in such a way that it does not create public panic or unnecessary distress to listeners
- represent viewpoints fairly without having a misleading emphasis, editing out of context or withholding relevant and available material.

## Australian music

Community broadcasters are renowned for supporting new, local, independent and particularly Australian music. Many musicians have had their first airplay and interviews on community radio stations. We are in a unique position to play and engage with a broad range of musical styles. Our support of the music industry and diverse music played is one of the key reasons people listen to community radio. A key condition of our broadcasting licence is the constant provision of Australian music content in all of our broadcasting.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the station:

- continues to play a diverse range of music throughout all of our programming,
- supports local musicians, and
- complies with the 25% Australian music requirement of the Codes of Practice by aiming for 30% Australian music across all general programming. This is intended to allow for music and/or talk-based specialist programs which may not be able to meet the 25% quota.

Presenters are encouraged to, within the confines of the sponsorship framework, promote local events, including in-house performances where local musicians or other Australian musicians and artists are featured.

Producers and presenters are encouraged to broadcast a wide range of musical styles, while taking into account the station's aims and objectives and the individual program's aims and objectives as outlined in this policy.

All programs will endeavour to ensure that of the total music played throughout a program, at least 30% of this is Australian.

With prior approval of the Station Manager, a specific program or session can be exempted from the Australian music quota if:

- The program's aim is to focus on music or culture other than Australian
- The musical style of a program is of a nature that does not have a high instance of Australian recordings

An internal audit of Australian music content will be conducted on as needed basis.

Presenters must not make representations to record companies or other music suppliers on behalf of the station unless prior consent has been given by the Station Manager or Chair of Committee of Management.

The station will not accept any form of payment in cash or in-kind, in return for providing airplay or promotion of music, except under standard sponsorship arrangements.

## Program guide

A program guide and presenter profiles are published on the station's website and updated on a quarterly basis as needed.

## Monitoring and evaluation of programs

An audio log of every broadcast hour is to be automatically captured, in compliance with our broadcasting licence, and retained for a period of at least two years from the date of broadcast. The log may be made available to ACMA to monitor our compliance with legislative and licence conditions, and for use in the investigation of complaints made against the station.

## Other relevant policies

Staff and volunteers are encouraged to read this policy in conjunction with other station policies.

## More information

If you have a query about this policy or need more information please contact the Station Manager or Chair of Committee of Management.