



# Inverell Community Radio Inc.

## PROGRAMMING POLICY

### INTRODUCTION

Three of the six guiding principles that unite Community Broadcasters relating directly to Programming are:

1. That we will work to enhance the diversity of Programming choices available to the public and present programs that expand the variety of viewpoints broadcast to the Inverell Community.
2. We will work to demonstrate independence in Programming as well as in editorial and management decisions.
3. We will work to support and develop local arts and music and cultural groups within the Inverell community.

This policy is based upon Code 3 of the Community Radio Broadcasting Codes of Practice and its intent is to enable STA FM to comply with the Broadcasting Services Act 1992. Where appropriate, the direct wording of the Codes of Practice is used.

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to encourage programming that reflects our community interest and guiding principles of **INVERELL COMMUNITY RADIO INCORPORATED** (known as **STA FM 91.9**).

### POLICY

- 1) **STA FM 91.9** will not broadcast material that may:
  - a) Incite, encourage, or present for its own sake violence or brutality.
  - b) Mislead or alarm listeners by simulating news or events.
  - c) Present as desirable the use of illegal drugs, the misuse of tobacco or alcohol as well as other harmful substances, and
  - d) Glamorize, sensationalize, 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.
- 2) **STA-FM 91.9** 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.

- 3) **STA-FM 91.9** 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. The requirement is not intended to prevent the broadcast or material which is factual, or the expression of genuinely held opinion in the news or current affairs program or in the legitimate context of a humorous, satirical or dramatic work.
- 4) **STA-FM 91.9** will have programming practices that protect children from harmful material but will avoid concealing the real world from them.

- 5) **STA-FM 91.9** will follow applicable privacy laws by:
  - a) Respecting people's legitimate right to protection from unjustified use of material which is obtained without consent or through an invasion of privacy.
  - b) Only broadcasting the words of an identifiable person where:
    - i) That person has been told in advance that the words may be broadcast, or
    - ii) It was clearly indicated at the time the recording was made that the materials would be broadcast, or
    - iii) In the case of words that have been recorded without the knowledge of a person, that person has indicated his/her agreement prior to broadcast.
- 6) News, current affairs (including news updates and promotions), documents, feature programs and interviews shall:
  - a) Provide access to views not adequately represented by other broadcasting sectors,
  - b) Present factual material accurately and ensure that reasonable efforts are made to correct substantial errors of fact as quickly as possible
  - c) Clearly distinguish factual material from commentary and analysis
  - d) Present news in such a way that it does not create public panic or unnecessary distress to listeners and
  - e) Represent viewpoints fairly without having a misleading emphasis, editing out the context or withholding relevant and available material.
- 7) **STA-FM 91.9** has the ability to offer emergency broadcast and will:
  - a) Have procedures in place to enable appropriate local emergency broadcasts.
  - b) Liaise with appropriate emergency and essential service organizations, and
  - c) Ensure the accuracy of emergency information.