



Programming

How does it work?

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Community Radio Stations are required to have a clear way of assessing program applications and update requests. In some stations this process can be clouded by myth and mill. The role of this document is clarification of the openness of the stations way of doing this along with the ability of members to participate.

Below are the items that are considered and which positions hold the role and the role of the board in addressing any complaints regarding the allocation of timeslots.

PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE

The programming committee is a delegated responsibility of the board to enable greater participation. The committee is made up of a chair of the committee (nominated by the board), the station managers (to ensure they are across any changes), and other members.

At this station day to day changes due to notified leave or absences are handled directly by the station managers(s), new timeslots or submissions for seasonal or permanent changes are handled by the whole committee. The committee can convene electronically to meet the demands of the nature of the programming fluctuations. The committee formally (face to face) meets at minimum twice a year to outline the year ahead for the new board year and formally agree on the report to the AGM.

The committee also allocates programming elements such as CSA's, and Spots to ensure the station meets the codes of practice, and is responsible for communicating changes in the program to the website and social media teams.

Programming is an important area and the term delegated responsibility is deliberate in that the board can withdraw the delegated responsibility if the board has good reason to.

PROGRAM SUBMISSION EVALUATION

Each new program submission takes into account several items or aspects in determining whether any adjustments to the on-air programming will meet the stations needs and the communities needs in the long or short term.

Below is a list of bullet points of the individual items. These are not in any specific order and may not be the limit.

Just as each presenter is free to present their program as they see fit within the codes and take ownership of their craft, the programming committee will determine the weighting of each item on taking into account each of the items in a responsible manner and in line with the stations mission or goals.

The overriding factor is that the board is available to hear any concerns, grievances or complaints regarding the allocation of any timeslot from any member.

It should be understood that while the presenter has a large degree of freedom to develop their program and themselves however the ownership of any time slot is not a given.

Radio by its nature does not do well with rapid timeslot shuffling as the station or timeslot needs to "take the listener or community with them". The presenter should be aware that they would be consulted should any changes be recommended.

So if I could put it this way. The listener or community owns the timeslot in that as we need to take the listener with us, any timeslot changes need to be managed with care.

PROGRAM SUBMISSION EVALUATION - ITEMS

Australian Content, Australian content is always a consideration as we are an Australian Community Radio Station and are required to play a minimum of 25%.

Balance, The community station needs to reflect the diversity of the service area it serves, stations with a dominant type of program or dominant genre of music do not reflect the community as well as it could.

The question is about general dominance rather than specific percentages.

Community, The station serves the community and maintains the communities support by its on-air conduct and product. Community Stations by their nature are a reflection of their community.

Conduct, presenter conduct more specifically related to timely changeover with other incoming presenters or pre-recorded shows.

Consistency, demonstrated ability to continually present the allocated timeslot against the occurrence of not showing up without the required notice.

Language, community expectations regarding lyric language at a certain time of day. Specifically related to bad language.

Listener, What the listener expects.

Opportunity, The community station can also provide others the opportunity to grow their skills through training and on-air time during streaming time. In today's technological world a new presenter could launch their program during our streaming time, have the same pressures of being live, and build their audience particularity that audience that uses internet radio listening technology.

Passion, Presenters are needed to present what matters to them, not what they are directed to in relation to genre. It is important that the listeners engage with the presenter through the presenters enthusiasm on the topic or music.

Timeslot requirements, the needs of the community regarding the timeslot level of community information or engagement.

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