

1953.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.



FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING CONTROL BOARD.

YEAR ENDED 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 1953.

By Authority:

L. F. JOHNSTON, Commonwealth Government Printer, Canberra.  
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the Annual Convention of the Australian Federation of Commercial Broadcasting Stations, the representatives of several licensees of commercial stations took the opportunity so afforded of consulting the Board concerning various aspects of their operations.

CONSULTATION WITH THE AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING COMMISSION, REPRESENTATIVES OF COMMERCIAL BROADCASTING STATIONS, ADVERTISERS AND MANUFACTURERS.

10. The Board has continued to consult with the Australian Broadcasting Commission; not only in respect of matters relating to programmes, as it is required by the *Broadcasting Act 1942-1953* to do, but also in regard to more general aspects of broadcasting and, in particular, to the provision of technical facilities needed to ensure more satisfactory reception of the programmes produced by the Commission. (These matters are dealt with later in the report—see paragraphs 62-65.) Reference was made in the Fourth Annual Report to the formation of a Standing Committee, representative of the Board, the Post Office and the Commission, for the purpose of reviewing at regular intervals the progress which was being made in giving effect to the approved plans for the development of the National Broadcasting Service. This Committee met on five occasions during the year.

11. Close association between the Board and the Australian Federation of Commercial Broadcasting Stations was maintained throughout the year and there were three formal meetings with the Liaison Committee appointed by the Federation to confer with the Board. At these meetings, various questions relating to the programmes of commercial stations were discussed in conformity with the requirements of the Act but, following its usual practice, the Board enlarged the scope of the discussions to include other questions affecting the Commercial Service. As the Board mentioned in its last report, this procedure affords the representatives of commercial stations ample opportunities to express their view on any matters relating to the Commercial Service which come within the jurisdiction of the Board, and the administration of the relevant sections of the Act is facilitated as a result. At the invitation of the Federation, the Board and its senior officers visited Albury during the Federation's Annual Convention in October, 1952, and the opening ceremony was performed by the Chairman on behalf of the Postmaster-General.

12. During the year, the Board also had discussions with representatives of advertisers (the Australian Association of Advertising Agencies and the Australian Association of National Advertisers) and manufacturers of radio equipment on matters affecting the particular branches of the broadcasting industry in which they are interested.

STAFF OF THE BOARD—HEAD OFFICE.

13. There has been no substantial change in the Head Office organization of the Board, which consists of three Divisions, namely, the Administrative Division, the Technical Services Division, and the Programme Services Division. The number of officers employed by the Board on 30th June, 1953, was 38.

STATE ORGANIZATION.

14. The Board is obliged by the Act to ensure that broadcasting stations are maintained and operated at a high standard of technical efficiency and that satisfactory programmes are broadcast by commercial stations. In order to discharge these obligations, it is necessary for the Board to be fully and reliably informed on all

aspects of the broadcasting services, and to carry out detailed administrative and technical functions on an Australia-wide basis. The Board, with the approval of the Public Service Board, had intended shortly after its establishment to set up a small organization in each State in order to carry out these functions effectively, but, in accordance with the Minister's wishes, it has, as has been explained in previous reports, arranged with the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs for officers of the Postmaster-General's Department to perform most of its functions in the field.

15. Under this arrangement, officers of the Engineering Branch of the Department undertake certain technical duties, including the inspection of broadcasting stations and the conduct of field strength surveys and officers of the Wireless Branch perform other duties on behalf of the Board. The Superintendent (Wireless) in each State, acts as the Board's State Representative, the following officers acting in this role in the various States:—

New South Wales	..	Mr. T. Armstrong.
Victoria	..	Mr. J. M. Dobbyn.
Queensland	..	Mr. W. H. Conry.
South Australia	..	Mr. H. K. Burbury.
Western Australia	..	Mr. E. L. Greig.
Tasmania	..	Mr. P. E. L. Dunne.

A conference of the State Representatives was held in Melbourne on 29th and 30th June, 1952. As a result of the co-operation of the officers of the Department who performed duties during the year on behalf of the Board, the arrangements outlined above have, on the whole, produced satisfactory results. The Board gladly acknowledges their help.

LICENSING OF COMMERCIAL BROADCASTING STATIONS.

16. The statutory provisions relating to the licensing of commercial broadcasting stations are contained in Part III. of the *Broadcasting Act 1942-1953*. The power to grant, renew, suspend or revoke licences is conferred upon the Minister and, without his consent, a licence may not be transferred nor may the licensee sublet or otherwise dispose of his licence. Section 52A of the Act provides that before exercising any of his powers in relation to the licensing of stations, the Minister shall take into consideration any recommendations which have been made by the Board as to the exercise of those powers.

17. Subject to any direction of the Minister, the Board determines the location, operating power and frequency of each commercial broadcasting station. With the authority of and on behalf of the Minister, the Board undertakes the detailed administration of the provisions of the Act relating to the licensing of commercial broadcasting stations and of the *Commercial Broadcasting Stations Licence Fees Act 1942*. The succeeding paragraphs contain further particulars relating to the licensing procedure and information concerning the stations which were operating during the year in pursuance of licences granted or renewed by the Minister.

GRANT OF NEW LICENCES.

18. Reception of commercial broadcasting stations in many country districts has been greatly improved by the operation of stations on higher power authorized by the Board (see paragraphs 66 and 67) and by the more efficient operation of stations as a result of the installation of equipment complying with the Board's standards for the technical equipment and operation of broadcasting stations (see paragraph 77). There are, however, still several areas in the Commonwealth with substantial population where, by reason of the

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topography of the surrounding country or the high atmospheric noise level, no effective service is available from any existing commercial station.

19. The Board is most anxious to remedy this state of affairs and it has therefore been pursuing its investigations into the possibility of further expanding the effective coverage of the Commercial Broadcasting Service by the establishment of additional stations. This is, however, difficult to arrange for reasons arising mainly from the shortage of frequency channels in the medium frequency band, a matter which is discussed in paragraphs 73-75. Having regard to this problem, and also to the difficult economic issues which are connected with the establishment of new stations, the Board has adopted the general policy that it should not recommend the grant by the Minister of a licence for a new commercial station unless —

- (a) a frequency channel is available for the station;
- (b) because of the shortage of frequencies, the need for the establishment of the proposed station on technical grounds has been clearly established by a careful engineering survey of the area concerned;
- (c) the ability of the proposed station to earn sufficient income to permit of its satisfactory operation in accordance with the provisions of the *Broadcasting Act 1942-1953* has been established;
- (d) the effect of the operation of the proposed station on the existing stations has been determined;
- (e) the suitability of the applicants to provide a broadcasting service for the locality has been established;
- (f) generally, the licensing of the proposed station is, in the widest sense, in the public interest, having regard, in particular, to the broadcasting services already available.

20. Although the technical considerations are of prime importance, because if a frequency channel is not available a station cannot be licensed, experience has demonstrated the need for careful investigation of the economic aspects of each proposal for a new station because a commercial broadcasting station can provide a satisfactory service only if it is able to earn sufficient income to maintain a reasonably high standard of operation and provide a fair return on the capital investment, which in these days is very substantial. There should also be evidence of some local enthusiasm for the proposed station in order to ensure that, if established, it will provide a comprehensive community service for the district in which it is to be located, and that, by so doing, it will hold a sufficiently large audience to make it an attractive proposition to advertisers notwithstanding competition from other stations. With due regard to the principles outlined in the preceding paragraph, the Board, has, during the past year reviewed the general situation in each State and the claims of various localities from which applications have been received for licences to operate new commercial broadcasting stations.

21. In the metropolitan areas of the Commonwealth, listeners already have a choice of programmes from several commercial stations, varying from six in Sydney to two in Hobart. A licence has not been granted for a station in a capital city since 1945, and the Board considers that the few frequency channels which are available in the medium frequency band for the expansion of the Commercial Service should be used for improvements in country districts. The succeeding paragraphs contain some observations based on the Board's investigations of the position outside the metropolitan areas.

22. *New South Wales.*—There are already 30 stations in operation in provincial and country districts in New South Wales, but the Board's inquiries indicate that there are still several areas where listeners are receiving a very low grade of service from commercial stations. In some cases, the population would be insufficient to support a local station, but the circumstances in several areas would satisfy each of the conditions outlined in paragraph 19, if a frequency channel were available. Unfortunately, it has been practicable to provide a channel in the medium frequency band for only one additional station in New South Wales and it is extremely difficult to decide in which particular district it should be established. The matter had not been finally determined when this report was being written. Some of the districts which have been considered are not far distant from Sydney and a considerable improvement can be expected when the power of the Sydney stations is increased, as proposed in paragraph 71. In the Board's Fourth Annual Report it was stated that the Minister had, on the recommendation of the Board, approved the grant of a licence for a station at Taree to a company consisting of local residents. The licence was formally granted on 31st December, 1952, to Manning Valley Broadcasting Proprietary Limited and the station 2RE Taree, commenced operation on 21st February, 1953.

23. *Victoria.*—The Board's investigations in Victoria have disclosed that a reasonably satisfactory service from commercial broadcasting stations is available in most populous parts of the State excepting the Wangaratta-Beechworth district and the hill country to the east and north-east of Melbourne. The need for a station in the Wangaratta district has been established by an engineering survey conducted by the Board, which showed that the strength of signals in that area from existing stations is not sufficiently high to ensure uniformly satisfactory reception. Wangaratta is the centre of a rich agricultural and pastoral district and is becoming increasingly important because of its secondary industries, and our investigations disclosed that a local commercial station would provide a first-class technical service for some 20,000 persons in the town and adjacent areas, and an improved, though not entirely satisfactory, service further to the east. As there was evidence of considerable local enthusiasm for the station and a frequency channel had been reserved for the purpose, the Minister, on the recommendation of the Board, approved the grant of a licence to a company to be controlled by local residents. The station will operate on the 1,600 kC/s. channel and a power of 2,000 watts in daylight hours and 1,000 watts at night. The Board is confident that a greatly improved service will be provided in hill country to the east and north-east of Melbourne when the power of the Melbourne commercial stations is increased, as proposed in paragraph 71.

24. *Queensland.*—There are sixteen commercial broadcasting stations in operation in the country districts of Queensland and a local service is being provided in most of the principal centres. There are, however, still many areas which are not being adequately served by any commercial station and the position is aggravated by the very high atmospheric noise level which prevails in this State. The population in most of these districts is, however, too small to support a local station, and, probably for this reason, pressing applications for licences have been received from only a few centres. The Board is proceeding with its investigations of the position in Queensland.

25. *South Australia.*—A reasonably satisfactory service is being provided by commercial stations throughout most of the State of South Australia, but the Board is considering the possibility of authorizing an additional station to provide an improved service in the

area on the eastern side of Spencer Gulf. No conclusions had been reached in this matter at the time this report was being written.

26. *Western Australia*.—The Board's Fourth Annual Report gave details of proposals which had been approved by the Minister for expanding the Commercial Broadcasting Service in Western Australia by the establishment of additional stations in the Bridgetown-Manjimup area, the Northern Wheat Belt and at Albany. A licence for a station in the Bridgetown-Manjimup area was formally granted to W.A. Broadcasters Pty. Ltd. on 12th January, 1953, and the station, 6BY Bridgetown, commenced operations on 24th January, 1953, operating on the 900 kC/s. channel with a power of 2,000 watts. Nicholsons Limited, which already operates 6PR Perth, 6TZ Bunbury and 6CI Collie, has been informed that the Minister is prepared to grant a licence for a station in a location to be selected in the Northern Wheat Belt, but the location of the station has not yet been determined. The Minister has authorized the Albany Advertiser (1932) Limited to proceed with the formation of a local company to which a licence will be granted at Albany.

27. *Tasmania*.—The power of five of the eight commercial stations operating in Tasmania has been increased and as they are providing a satisfactory service for almost all the populated portions of the State, the Board does not contemplate recommending to the Minister that any additional stations should be established.

#### APPLICATIONS FOR LICENCES.

28. Twenty-five applications were received during the year for licences for new commercial stations distributed amongst the States as follows:—

New South Wales	..	..	12
Victoria	..	..	2
Queensland	..	..	9
Western Australia	..	..	2
Total	..	..	25

In addition, two applications were received for commercial stations in the Territory of New Guinea. The total applications now recorded by the Board is 1,026, but many of these applications were received in the early days of broadcasting and can no longer be regarded as current. In addition, many of the applications are for stations in areas which are already well served and in respect of which there is little likelihood of additional M.F. stations being authorized. Each new application is given careful consideration by the Board and, in any case where the circumstances are clearly such as not to justify the grant of a licence on the basis indicated in paragraph 19, the applicant is informed of the reasons why the Board cannot recommend to the Minister that a licence should be granted for the station he desires to establish. In other cases, further investigations, including a field survey, are made by the Board as a preliminary to the preparation of a report and recommendation to the Minister.

#### RENEWAL OF LICENCES.

29. Section 46 (2.) of the *Broadcasting Act 1942-1953* provides as follows:—

The Minister, if he deems it desirable, may from time to time renew a licence for any period not exceeding one year from the date of expiration of the current licence or renewal.

The Board is required to advise the Minister on each application for renewal of a licence and it takes the opportunity so afforded to make a complete review of the operations of each station during the previous twelve months. As was explained in its Fourth

Annual Report, the Board regards this duty as one of its most important responsibilities because constant vigilance is required, in the public interest, to ensure that every licensee maintains a high standard of service, both in respect of the technical performance of his station and the quality of its programmes. It is evident that the general standard of service is being raised as a result of the close attention which is being paid by the Board to various aspects of the operations of each station. The Board has not had occasion during the past year to recommend to the Minister that the renewal of any existing licence should be withheld, but, as in previous years, some licensees were, with the approval of the Minister, informed that the renewal of their licences had been granted subject to appropriate measures being taken promptly to effect improvements in specified directions.

#### CURRENT LICENCES FOR COMMERCIAL BROADCASTING STATIONS.

30. On the 30th June, 1953, there were 105 licences for commercial broadcasting stations in force. A list of licensees is contained in Appendix "A". A map of Australia showing the location of all broadcasting stations is included after Appendix "E". The disposition of the licences according to States is shown hereunder:—

State.	Metropolitan Area.	Country districts.	Total.
New South Wales (including Australian Capital Territory)	7	30	37
Victoria .. .. .	6	13	19
Queensland .. .. .	4	16	20
South Australia .. .. .	3	5	8
Western Australia .. .. .	4	9	13
Tasmania .. .. .	2	6	8
Commonwealth .. .. .	26	79	105

#### FEES FOR LICENCES FOR COMMERCIAL BROADCASTING STATIONS.

31. Under section 48 of the Act, the licensee of each commercial broadcasting station is required to pay an annual licence fee, assessed in accordance with the *Commercial Broadcasting Stations Licence Fees Act 1942*, which provides for an annual fee of £25 per annum, plus one-half of 1 per centum of the gross earnings of any station which in the preceding year has made a profit. The total amount of licence fees payable during 1952-53 was £22,343 made up as follows:—

State.	Fees Paid by—		Total.
	Metropolitan Stations.	Country Stations.	
	£	£	£
New South Wales .. .. .	4,633	4,449	9,082
Victoria .. .. .	3,724	2,083	5,807
Queensland .. .. .	1,802	1,997	3,799
South Australia .. .. .	1,216	156	1,372
Western Australia .. .. .	580	638	1,218
Tasmania .. .. .	482	583	1,065
Commonwealth .. .. .	12,437	9,906	22,343

#### COMMERCIAL BROADCASTING STATIONS—FINANCIAL RESULTS OF OPERATIONS.

32. The following particulars, which have been extracted from statements submitted by the licensees of commercial broadcasting stations since 1942, in pursuance of the provisions of section 67 (1.) (c) of the

Act, show the financial results from the operations of such stations during the past ten years:—

Year.	Number of stations in operation.	Stations making a profit.	Stations showing a loss.	Total Revenue.	Total expenditure.	Total profit.
1941-42	97	53	44	£ 1,330,000	£ 1,248,188	£ 81,812
1942-43	96	66	30	1,298,297	1,157,294	141,003
1943-44	98	87	11	1,871,851	1,491,967	379,884
1944-45	100	89	11	2,184,686	1,758,905	425,781
1945-46	100	86	14	2,279,719	1,851,042	428,677
1946-47	101	85	16	2,388,587	2,013,363	375,224
1947-48	102	86	16	2,774,371	2,278,319	496,052
1948-49	102	90	12	3,212,253	2,619,474	592,779
1949-50	102	84	18	3,178,360	2,748,594	429,766
1950-51	102	88	14	3,607,498	3,092,259	515,239
1951-52	103	87	16	4,329,675	3,729,554	600,121

It should be explained that eleven of the sixteen stations which made a loss were being operated on relay from capital city stations in the same ownership and that the combined accounts of the capital city stations and the relay stations showed a profit.

#### TRANSFER OF LICENCES AND LEASING OF STATIONS.

##### 33. Section 50 (1.) of the Act provides that—

Except with the consent in writing of the Minister, a licensee of a commercial broadcasting station shall not transfer the licence or assign, sublet or otherwise dispose of the licence

or admit any other person to participate in any of the benefits of the licence, or to exercise any of the powers or authorities granted by the licence.

During the year, the Minister, on the recommendation of the Board, gave his consent for the transfer of two licences, in each case the licence being transferred to a new company formed for the purpose of raising the capital required to purchase new transmitting equipment and move the station to a new site following an increase in operating power. The licence for station 2AD Armidale was transferred from the Armidale Newspaper Co. Ltd. (operating as New England Broadcasters) to New England Broadcasters Pty. Ltd. in which the Armidale Newspaper Co. Ltd. and Broadcast Amalgamated Pty. Ltd. (consisting of shareholders resident in the New England district) have equal shares and have the right to nominate three directors. The chairman of directors, who has a casting vote, is a nominee of the Armidale Newspaper Co. Ltd. The licence for station 2RG Griffith was transferred from Irrigation Area Newspapers Pty. Ltd. to 2RG Broadcasters Pty. Ltd., a new company with a nominal capital of £100,000 in which the former licensee holds one-sixth of the issued shares and Associated Rural Industries Ltd., a public company with head-quarters at Sydney but with interests in the Griffith district, holds five-sixths of the issued shares.

34. At 30th June, 1953, the following five stations were, with the consent of the Minister, being operated by persons other than the licensees:—

Station.	Licensee.	Date of original consent.	Date of expiry of existing consent.	Operating company.
2CH Sydney ..	New South Wales Council of Churches Service	14.4.36	31.12.56	Amalgamated Wireless (A/asia.) Ltd.
3CV Maryborough ..	Central Victoria Broadcasters Pty. Ltd. ..	17.12.41	31.12.53	J. R. Birt Pty. Ltd.
3SH Swan Hill ..	Swan Hill Broadcasting Co. Pty. Ltd. ..	5.4.37	31.12.56	Central Murray Broadcasters Pty. Ltd.
3KZ Melbourne ..	Industrial Printing and Publicity Co. Ltd. ..	12.2.32	30.6.56	3KZ Broadcasting Co. Pty. Ltd.
3XY Melbourne ..	Station 3XY Pty. Ltd. ..	17.5.35	1.5.56	Efttee Broadcasters Pty. Ltd.

35. The consent given by the Minister during the previous year for a continuance until 30th June, 1953, of the agreement between Central Victoria Broadcasters Pty. Ltd. and J. R. Birt Pty. Ltd. in respect of station 3CV Maryborough was extended to 31st December, 1953. Reference was made in the Fourth Report to the purchase of all the shares in J. R. Birt Pty. Ltd. by 3AW Broadcasting Company Pty. Ltd., licensee of station 3AW Melbourne. When the Minister approved this purchase it was on the understanding that the objective of 3AW Broadcasting Company Pty. Ltd. and Central Victoria Broadcasters Pty. Ltd. was to combine their interests by the formation of a new company which would hold the licence for 3CV and that both parties would use their best endeavours to bring about this result as soon as possible on terms which were fair and reasonable. The Board realized that negotiations of this type would take some time, and in the belief that satisfactory progress was being made, it recommended that the Minister should consent to a further extension of time until 31st December, 1953, to enable the parties sufficient time to reach finality. The agreement between the Industrial Printing and Publicity Company Ltd., licensee of station 3KZ Melbourne, expired on 30th June, 1953, and the Minister has given his consent to the renewal of the agreement for a further period of three years.

- (c) four commercial broadcasting stations in any one State; or  
(d) eight commercial broadcasting stations in Australia.

For the purposes of this section, it is necessary for reliable information concerning the ownership and control of commercial broadcasting stations to be available to the Board, in order that the Minister may be advised whether the statutory limitations on the ownership and control of stations are being observed.

37. Any contemplated changes in the ownership or control of stations by any of the methods mentioned in section 50 of the Act (see paragraph 33) are carefully examined by the Board, which in each case makes a report to the Minister, indicating whether, on the information available to the Board, the proposal would result in any infringement of section 53. There are no provisions in the Act regulating transfers of shares in companies holding licences for commercial broadcasting stations, but it is a condition of each licence that "the control of the station shall not be varied in any manner whatsoever, directly or indirectly, without the permission of the Minister". In addition the Board's administrative procedure requires—

#### OWNERSHIP OF COMMERCIAL BROADCASTING STATIONS.

36. Section 53 (1.) of the *Broadcasting Act 1942-1953* reads—

A person shall not own, or be in a position to exercise control, either directly or indirectly, of, more than—

- (a) one metropolitan commercial broadcasting station in any State;  
(b) four metropolitan commercial broadcasting stations in Australia;

- (a) each prospective licensee company to submit a complete list of shareholders and a copy of its Memorandum and Articles of Association to the Minister prior to the grant of a licence;  
(b) each licensee company to submit an up-to-date list of shareholders with its annual application for renewal of its licence; and  
(c) each licensee company to consult the Minister or the Board before any substantial transaction affecting the shareholding or control of the company is completed.

A further requirement is that licensees supply the Board with complete lists of their directors and keep the Board informed of any changes in the Memorandum and Articles of Association of their company.

38. According to the information supplied by licensees to the Board during the year, 32 of the 105 stations then in service were being operated by persons or organizations which were in a position to control only one station, and ten by persons or organizations which were in a position to control, or were substantially interested in, two stations. The remaining stations, 63 in number, are controlled by persons or organizations which are in a position to control, directly or indirectly, or have substantial interests in, three or more stations, but in no case did it appear to the Board from the information in its possession that there had been any infringement of section 53 of the Act during the year to which this report relates. The matter is under constant review, and it is the practice of the Board to bring under the notice of the Minister any increases in the holdings of any person or organization which appear to be contrary to the intention of the legislation. In the succeeding paragraphs, details compiled from information supplied by licensees are given of the principal changes in the ownership and control of stations which were effected by transactions in shares during the year, and of companies or persons who have a controlling interest in several stations.

39. *M.P.A. Productions Pty. Ltd.*—As mentioned in the Board's Fourth Annual Report, *M.P.A. Productions Pty. Ltd.* on 24th October, 1951, informed the Minister that it had acquired all the shares in *Broadcasting Associates Pty. Ltd.*, a company which is a substantial shareholder in several companies holding licences for commercial broadcasting stations, but does not hold any licence in its own name. The transaction, therefore, was not subject to the provisions of the Act nor the administrative requirements mentioned in paragraph 37. *M.P.A. Productions Pty. Ltd.* is a company incorporated in Victoria in 1949, the issued capital in which was, at the time of the purchase of these broadcasting interests, held equally by or on behalf of two public companies registered and carrying on business in England, namely, *The Daily Mirror Newspapers Limited* and *Sunday Pictorial Newspapers (1920) Limited*. As a result of its purchase of all the shares in the capital of *Broadcasting Associates Pty. Ltd.*, *M.P.A. Productions Pty. Ltd.* acquired the following interests in commercial broadcasting stations in the Commonwealth:—

SHARES HELD BY BROADCASTING ASSOCIATES  
PTY. LTD.

Company.	Station of which company is licensee.	Total shares issued.	Shares held by Broadcasting Associates Pty. Ltd.
Broadcasting Station 2GB Pty. Ltd.	2GB Sydney ..	49,685	32,234
Canberra Broadcasters Ltd.	2CA Canberra ..	23,000*	22,798*
		2,050†	450†
Young Broadcasters Pty. Ltd.	2LF Young ..	8,557	2,140
Hunter River Broadcasters Pty. Ltd.	2HR Lochinvar	5,500	2,000
Lithgow Broadcasters Pty. Ltd.	2LT Lithgow ..	3,747	750
Mudgee Broadcasting Company Pty. Ltd.	2MG Mudgee ..	3,418	854
Parkes Broadcasting Company Pty. Ltd.	2PK Parkes ..	1,000	165
Wollongong Broadcasting Pty. Ltd.	2WL Wollongong	11,000	5,500

\* Ordinary.

† Preference.

SHARES HELD BY BROADCASTING STATION 2GB  
PTY. LTD.

(Controlled by Broadcasting Associates Pty. Ltd.)

Company.	Station of which company is licensee.	Total shares issued.	Shares held by Broadcasting Station 2GB Pty. Ltd.
Young Broadcasters Pty. Ltd.	2LF Young ..	8,557	2,139
Lithgow Broadcasters Pty. Ltd.	2LT Lithgow ..	3,747	749
Mudgee Broadcasting Company Pty. Ltd.	2MG Mudgee ..	3,418	856
3AW Broadcasting Company Pty. Ltd.	3AW Melbourne	6,000	1,500
Hume Broadcasters Ltd..	5DN Adelaide ..	12,405	7,000

The company also acquired a temporary interest in station 5RM Renmark, which, at the time the transaction was completed, was being operated by *Hume Broadcasters Limited* (which is controlled by *Broadcasting Station 2GB Pty. Ltd.*), in accordance with the terms of a lease between *Hume Broadcasters Limited* and the licensee of the station. This arrangement terminated on 31st March, 1952. The English companies which, as mentioned above, control *M.P.A. Productions Pty. Ltd.*, are also in a position, through their interest in the *Argus and Australasian Ltd.*, to control stations 3SR Shepparton, 3UL Warragul and 3YB Warrnambool.

40. The purchase of the shares in *Broadcasting Associates Pty. Ltd.* by *M.P.A. Productions Pty. Ltd.* was discussed in both Houses of the Parliament on 28th November, 1951, on which date the following resolution was passed in each House:—

That, in the opinion of this House [the Senate], it is undesirable that any person not an Australian should have any substantial measure of ownership or control over any Australian commercial broadcasting station, whether such ownership or control be exercisable directly or indirectly.

The Chairman and Managing Director of the *Daily Mirror Newspapers Ltd.* and *Sunday Pictorial Newspapers (1920) Limited* (Mr. C. H. King) interviewed the Minister in Canberra on 22nd February, 1952, for the purpose of discussing the resolution, and the Minister subsequently made a public statement concerning the meeting in which he said that Mr. King had informed him that the companies concerned were anxious and willing to give effect to the resolution of the Parliament and would take the necessary steps to comply with the resolution.

41. On 12th November, 1952, *Broadcasting Associates Pty. Ltd.* informed the Minister that having regard to the resolution of the Parliament it proposed to make the following adjustments to its shareholdings in commercial broadcasting stations—

(a) to sell the whole of its shares in *Canberra Broadcasters Ltd.* to *Broadcasting Station 2GB Pty. Ltd.*, and

(b) to sell 10,000 of its shares in *Broadcasting Station 2GB Pty. Ltd.* to the following persons:—

7,000 to *John Fairfax and Sons Pty. Ltd.*, Sydney.

1,000 to *Sir John Chandler*, Brisbane.

1,000 to *Mr. Len Nettlefold*, Hobart.

850 to *Hon. Alexander Mair*, Albury.

150 to *Mr. Eric McRae*, Hobart.

The proposal was considered by the Government on the 16th January, 1953, and was accepted by it as substantial compliance with the resolution of Parliament. The

proposed transactions have been completed with the result that—

- (a) M.P.A. Productions Pty. Ltd. has disposed of the majority of shares which it held in 2CA Canberra by virtue of the shares held by Broadcasting Associates Pty. Ltd.;
- (b) the interest held by M.P.A. Productions Pty. Ltd. (through Broadcasting Associates Pty. Ltd.) in Broadcasting Station 2GB Pty. Ltd. has been converted from a majority holding of 68.88 per cent. of the issued shares to a minority interest of 44.7 per cent. of the issued shares; and
- (c) the reduction of the M.P.A. Productions Pty. Ltd. interest in Broadcasting Station 2GB Pty. Ltd. has in turn proportionately reduced the indirect interest it holds (through Broadcasting Associates Pty. Ltd.) in stations 2LF Young, 2LT Lithgow, 2MG Mudgee, 3AW Melbourne and 5DN Adelaide (see paragraph 39).

The general effect of the transactions is that, except in the case of the Argus and Australasian Ltd. (which was not affected by these transactions), no company controlled by M.P.A. Productions Pty. Ltd. will hold a majority of shares in any company holding a licence for a commercial broadcasting station.

42. *Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia) Ltd.*—This company has the following interests in commercial broadcasting stations:—

- (a) it holds the licences for 2AY Albury, 3BO Bendigo, 4CA Cairns and 4TO Townsville;
- (b) it owns all the shares in the companies which operate 2GF Grafton and 2GN Goulburn, and has a controlling interest (4,400 shares in a total of 5,000) in the company which operates 4WK Warwick;
- (c) by agreement with the licensee, it conducts the service of 2CH Sydney;
- (d) it holds 800 shares (in a total of 6,500) in 2SM Sydney; 400 shares (in a total of 4,975) in 3HA Hamilton; and 5,500 shares (in a total of 11,000) in 7LA Launceston;
- (e) it holds 1,000 preference shares (in totals of 3,643 (£1) preference, 3,604 (£1) ordinary and 14,000 (5s.) ordinary shares) in Transcontinental Broadcasting Corporation Ltd., which controls 2KA Ltd., licensee of 2KA Katoomba.

43. *Commonwealth Broadcasting Corporation Pty. Ltd., Sydney, and Commonwealth Broadcasting Corporation (Queensland) Ltd., Brisbane.*—The shares in these two companies are owned by the same interests. The former is the licensee of 2UW, Sydney, and the latter, which is the licensee of 4BC Brisbane, has a controlling interest in 4GR Toowoomba (1,663 shares in a total of 3,300), 4MB Maryborough (1,060 shares in a total of 2,000 shares) and 4RO Rockhampton (holds the total shares—2,000). Commonwealth Broadcasting Corporation (Queensland) Limited also holds 1,000 ordinary shares in totals of 3,395 ordinary and 2,405 preference in 4SB Kingaroy.

*Findlays Pty. Ltd., Tasmania.*—Findlays Pty. Ltd. has a third interest in 7HO Hobart, a quarter interest in 7LA Launceston, hold all the shares in 7DY Derby, and members of the Findlay family hold all the shares in station 7AD Devonport and a controlling interest in station 7BU Burnie (4,150 shares in a total of 4,270).

*Nicholsons Ltd., Perth.*—Nicholsons Ltd. holds licences for 6PR Perth, 6CI Collie and 6TZ Bunbury, and has been authorized to establish a station in the Northern Wheat Belt.

*Whitfords Interests, Perth.*—Mr. and Mrs. A. P. H. Whitford and Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Whitford hold all the shares in the companies holding the licences for 6AM Northam, 6KG Kalgoorlie, and 6PM Perth, and have a controlling interest in 6GE Geraldton.

44. *Newspaper Companies.*—Newspaper companies, or persons substantially interested in newspapers, owned eighteen of the 105 stations in operation on 30th June, 1953, and held shares in 30 other stations. The principal newspaper interests in broadcasting stations, in addition to those mentioned in paragraphs 39-41, are set out below:—

#### CAPITAL CITY NEWSPAPERS.

2UE Sydney	..	Controlling interest held by Associated Newspapers Ltd. (the Sydney Sun).
3DB Melbourne	..	Licences held by Herald and Weekly Times Ltd. (the Melbourne Herald).
3LK Lubeck	..	
3SR Shepparton	..	Controlling interest held by the Argus and Australasian Ltd. (the Melbourne Argus), which holds all the shares in the licensee company.
3UL Warragul	..	
3YB Warrnambool	..	
3AW Melbourne	..	Quarter interest held by David Syme and Co. Ltd. (the Melbourne Age).
3CV Maryborough	..	
4AK Oakey	..	Licences held by Queensland Newspapers Pty. Ltd. (the Brisbane Courier-Mail).
4BK Brisbane	..	
5AD Adelaide	..	Licence for 5AD held by Advertiser Newspapers Ltd. (the Adelaide Advertiser), which controls the companies holding the licences for the other three stations.
5MU Murray Bridge	..	
5PI Crystal Brook	..	
5SE Mount Gambier	..	
2BH Broken Hill	..	News Ltd. (the Adelaide News) owns 2BH Broken Hill, has 3,405 ordinary and 2,000 preference shares (in totals of 8,405 ordinary and 4,000 preference shares) in the company which holds the licence for 5DN Adelaide, and 1,501 shares (in a total of 8,176 shares) in the company which holds the licence for station 5RM Renmark.
5DN Adelaide	..	
5RM Renmark	..	
6IX Perth	..	West Australian Newspapers Ltd. (the West Australian, Perth) has a half interest in W.A. Broadcasters Pty. Ltd., which controls stations 6IX Perth, 6WB Katanning, 6MD Merredin and 6BY Bridgetown.
6MD Merredin	..	
6WB Katanning	..	
6BY Bridgetown	..	
6KY Perth	..	People's Printing and Publishing Co. of Western Australia Ltd.
6NA Narrogin	..	
7HO Hobart	..	Davies Bros. Ltd. (the Hobart Mercury) has a third interest in the station.

#### OTHER NEWSPAPERS OWNING OR CONTROLLING COMMERCIAL BROADCASTING STATIONS.

2AD Armidale	..	The Armidale Newspaper Co. Ltd. has a half interest and one of its nominees a casting vote on the Board of Directors.
2LT Lithgow	..	Western Newspapers Ltd. (conducting country newspapers in New South Wales) has 2,248 shares (in a total of 3,747) in Lithgow Broadcasters Pty. Ltd., which holds the licence for 2LT Lithgow, and has 4,221 shares (in a total of 8,557 shares) in Young Broadcasters Pty. Ltd., which holds the licence for 2LF Young.
2LF Young	..	
2LM Lismore	..	Northern Star Ltd. holds 4,000 shares (in a total of 7,125 shares) in Richmond River Broadcasters Pty. Ltd., which holds the licence for the station.
3BA Ballarat	..	The Ballarat Courier Pty. Ltd. holds 1,700 shares (in a total of 2,000 shares) in Ballarat Broadcasters Pty. Ltd., which holds the licence for the station.
3GL Geelong	..	The Geelong Advertiser Pty. Ltd. owns the station.

7EX Launceston .. W. R. Rolph and Sons Pty. Ltd. (the *Examiner*, Launceston) holds 1,800 shares (in a total of 2,500 shares) in 7EX Pty. Ltd., which holds the licence for the station.

The above particulars do not take into account shareholdings of individuals or companies who are substantial shareholders in both broadcasting and newspaper companies.

#### NETWORKS OF COMMERCIAL BROADCASTING STATIONS.

45. Section 6K (4.) of the Act empowers the Board "to regulate the establishment of networks of broadcasting stations and the making of agreements or arrangements by licensees of commercial broadcasting stations for the provision of programmes or the broadcasting of advertisements". In addition, the licensee of each commercial broadcasting station is required to obtain the Board's consent before entering or becoming a member of any network, by a condition of his licence, which reads as under:—

The licensee shall not, without the consent in writing of the Australian Broadcasting Control Board, enter or become a member of any network of broadcasting stations, or any other association or organization of broadcasting stations formed for the purpose of making arrangements for the provision of programmes or the broadcasting of advertisements, or acquire, by itself or any persons or company on its behalf, any shares or other interest in any such network, association or organization.

The two principal networks in existence at present are the Macquarie Broadcasting Network and the Major Broadcasting Network.

46. The Macquarie Broadcasting Network is a proprietary company (Macquarie Broadcasting Service Pty. Ltd.), in which the following member stations were shareholders on 30th June, 1953:—

#### Macquarie Broadcasting Network.

New South Wales—	Victoria—
2CA Canberra.	3AW Melbourne.
2GB Sydney.	South Australia—
2HR Lochinvar.	5DN Adelaide.
2LF Young.	Western Australia—
2LT Lithgow.	6IX Perth.
2MW Murwillumbah.	6MD Merredin.
2PK Parkes.	6WB Katanning.
Queensland—	6BY Bridgetown.
4BH Brisbane.	Tasmania—
4BU Bundaberg.	7HO Hobart.
4GY Gympie.	7LA Launceston.

Stations 2MG Mudgee and 3CV Maryborough were member stations but not shareholders.

47. Macquarie Broadcasting Service Pty. Ltd. has an arrangement with a number of other stations in accordance with which they may co-operate with the network on agreed terms in the sale of station time for the broadcasting of Macquarie programmes.

48. The Major Broadcasting Network is not a company, but is an association of stations of which the following were members on 30th June, 1953:—

New South Wales—	Victoria—
2KO Newcastle.	3DB Melbourne.
2UE Sydney.	3LK Lubeck.
2GZ Orange.	Western Australia—
Queensland—	6CI Collie.
4AK Oakey.	6PR Perth.
4BK Brisbane.	6TZ Bunbury.
South Australia—	Tasmania—
5AD Adelaide.	7EX Launceston.
5MU Murray Bridge.	7HT Hobart.
5PI Crystal Brook.	
5SE Mount Gambier.	

49. There are also the following associations of stations or groups of stations in the same ownership which are described as networks, but their operation is confined to one State:—

Victorian Broadcasting Network—Stations 3HA Hamilton, 3SH Swan Hill and 3TR Sale.

The Queensland Broadcasting Network—Stations 4BC Brisbane, 4GR Toowoomba, 4MB Maryborough, 4RO Rockhampton and 4SB Kingaroy.

The Advertiser Broadcasting Network—Stations 5AD Adelaide, 5MU Murray Bridge, 5PI Crystal Brook and 5SE Mount Gambier.

Whitford's Broadcasting Network—Stations 6PM Perth, 6AM Northam, 6GE Geraldton and 6KG Kalgoorlie.

The Tasmanian Coastal Broadcasting Network—Stations 7AD Devonport, 7BU Burnie, 7DY Derby and 7QT Queenstown.

50. In the Second Annual Report of the Board will be found some discussion of the functions of networks of broadcasting stations and their significance in the Australian broadcasting structure. The Board is satisfied from its observations of existing networks that on the whole their activities are beneficial to listeners because they permit programmes to be produced on a scale which could not be undertaken by an individual licensee. The networks also facilitate the business arrangements of their members providing as they do for the sale of time to advertisers on a joint basis by a number of stations. It is, however, important in the public interest that individual stations should retain complete freedom to conduct their services in accordance with the requirements of the Act, which places the full responsibility for the conduct of each station on the individual licensee, and it is therefore necessary that a proper balance should be maintained between the interests of the networks and their members in order that the independence of the individual stations should be preserved. Due regard is paid by the Board to these considerations in any matter involving the exercise of its powers under section 6K (4.) (d) of the Act to regulate the operation of networks.

#### AUSTRALIAN UNESCO COMMITTEE FOR RADIO.

51. The various Australian Unesco Committees were established to advise the Government on Australian policy in relation to the Unesco programme, to give advice and assistance on the execution of Unesco projects in Australia, to disseminate information about Unesco and its activities and to carry out such other miscellaneous activities as advising on the composition of Australian representation at conferences, meetings, seminars, &c., and on Unesco staffing. During the past year the Australian Unesco Committee for Radio has participated in all these activities, meeting both before the Seventh Session of the Unesco General Conference, in order to advise on the briefing of the Australian delegation, and after it, to consider possible Australian activities in line with the recommendations made by that Conference. Members of the Committee (representatives of the Australian Broadcasting Commission, the Australian Federation of Commercial Broadcasting Stations, the Musicians' Union, Actors' and Announcers' Equity, and the Professional Radio Employees' Institute and the Board) felt more closely associated than usual with the proceedings of the important Seventh Session—during which the Director-General of Unesco resigned—by reason of the fact that the leader of the Australian delegation was Mr. C. J. A. Moses, General Manager of the Australian Broadcasting Commission. Mr. Moses's account of the Conference, on his return, was received with great interest by the Committee. As this General Conference of Unesco is, in future, to be a biennial event, the Committee was faced, at its second meeting, with the task of planning Australian activities

for two years ahead. Among the recommendations it made was that members should investigate the possibility of providing the Secretariat with recorded material for use in Unesco Radio productions. Advice was given to Unesco upon the proposed establishment of a world documentation centre on school broadcasts and on various aspects of possible Unesco action with regard to television. It has been agreed that Unesco programme items relating to television should be referred to a joint meeting of the Committee for Radio and Films.

52. The principal Unesco publications since the last report of the Board were the fifth (and final) Unesco report on the facilities of Mass Communication throughout the world (a volume entitled Press, Film, Radio, V., 1951); Unesco Clearing House Series No. 4 (an annotated bibliography of Unesco publications on Mass Communication) and No. 5 (an account of an experiment in community television reception in French villages); and the Unesco publication Television and Education in the United States by Charles A. Siepmann. The radio division of the Unesco Secretariat, which recorded the series of eight quarter-hour dramatized features used by some 30 Australian broadcasting stations last year, has now produced a similar series of thirteen programmes. The titles of these are as follows:—

*This Atomic Age; Change Without Tears; Music Festival; Backdoor Travelogue; Schoolbells in the Desert; The Search for Power; Ages Not So Dark; The Music Makers; The Tower of Babel; Song of Siam; The Twain Shall Meet; Science and Food; and Students Abroad.*

The Committee has taken action to secure for these programmes an even wider usage than was the case last year.

#### STATE BROADCASTING ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

53. The State Broadcasting Advisory Committees, whose previous term of appointment expired on 30th September, 1950, have not since been reconstituted in conformity with the provision of section 6Q of the Act.

#### DEFAMATION BY MEANS OF BROADCASTING.

54. In the Fourth Annual Report the Board set out certain of the recommendations made by the English Committee on the Law of Defamation (Cmd. 7536) and referred to legislation subsequently passed by the Parliament of the United Kingdom, which provided that for the purposes of the law of libel and slander, the broadcasting of words by means of wireless telegraphy shall be treated as publications in permanent form. The legislation provided also for the extension to broadcasting stations of the qualified privilege of newspapers to publish a fair and accurate report of many matters of public interest. The Board expressed the view that these matters merited consideration by the State Governments. It has been suggested to the Board that it may be possible to introduce appropriate legislation in Australia by means of an amendment to the Broadcasting Act and this matter will be carefully examined when amendments to the Act are next under consideration.

#### TELEVISION.

55. In its Fourth Annual Report the Board recorded the decision reached by the Government on 12th March, 1952, that the introduction of television into the Commonwealth was to be deferred because of the economic situation which existed at that time. Announcing this decision, the Minister said that the

Government had felt obliged to review its policy in many matters, including television, because of the very drastic change which had taken place in the Australian economy as a result primarily of alterations in the balance of overseas payments. In this connexion, the Government, while recognizing that the introduction of television could confer many benefits on the community, was obliged to pay due regard to many projects possessing a higher priority than television, notably those relating to defence, and also to the overall economic situation. The Government had accordingly reached the conclusion that, although it was anxious that television services should be provided for the people of the Commonwealth as soon as possible, the time was inopportune to embark upon the introduction of television. The Minister emphasized that this decision was reached by the Government with considerable reluctance and that it should not be taken as indicating that the establishment of television services in this country had been deferred indefinitely. On the contrary, he said, the question would be kept under constant review, as it was the desire of the Government that the services should be commenced as soon as circumstances permitted.

56. Further consideration was given to the matter by the Government on 16th January, 1953, when it decided—

- (a) to appoint a Royal Commission to investigate various aspects of the use of television, with particular reference to the number of stations which can be effectively established, in what localities and on what conditions, and the means of securing proper programmes; and
- (b) to introduce legislation to permit of the licensing of commercial television stations as well as the operation of national television stations.

#### ROYAL COMMISSION ON TELEVISION.

57. The Royal Commission, which was appointed by Letters Patent dated 11th February, 1953, is required by its terms of reference—

To inquire into and report upon—

- (a) the number of national and commercial television stations which can effectively be established and operated having regard to the financial and economic considerations involved and the availability of suitable programmes;
- (b) the areas which might be served by television stations and the stages by which they should be established;
- (c) the conditions which should apply to the establishment of television stations;
- (d) the standards to be observed in the programmes of national and commercial television stations to ensure the best use of television broadcasting in the public interest;
- (e) any conditions which may be considered desirable to apply to the television broadcasting of—
  - (i) political and controversial matter and issues;
  - (ii) religious services and other religious matter;
  - (iii) advertisements;
- (f) the conditions, if any, which should be imposed with respect to periods of broadcasting of television programmes.

The members of the Royal Commission on Television are—

*Chairman—*

Professor George Whitecross Paton, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Melbourne, formerly Professor of Jurisprudence in that University.

*Members—*

- Mr. Robert Gumley Osborne, Chairman of the Australian Broadcasting Control Board.
- Mr. Colin Blore Bednall, Managing Editor of the *Courier-Mail*, Brisbane.
- Hon. Robert Christian Wilson, M.L.C., New South Wales, Member of the Council of the Graziers' Association of New South Wales.
- Mr. Norman Smith Young, Public Accountant, Adelaide, formerly President of the Commonwealth Institute of Accountants.
- Mrs. Maud Foxton, State President of the Country Women's Association, Western Australia.

58. At the request of the Royal Commission, made soon after its appointment, the Board supplied to it comprehensive statements relating to—

- (a) decisions of Commonwealth Governments in connexion with television;
- (b) the organization of broadcasting in Australia;
- (c) the organization of broadcasting in Great Britain;
- (d) the television services in Great Britain;
- (e) the organization of broadcasting in Canada;
- (f) the television services in Canada;
- (g) the broadcasting organization in the United States of America;
- (h) the television services in the United States of America;
- (i) the Australian television standards and television frequency channel reservations.

Subsequently, at the request of the Royal Commission, evidence on various aspects of television was given to the Royal Commission by the Director of Technical Services (Mr. D. McDonald), the Assistant Director (Mr. A. J. McKenzie) and the Assistant Secretary (Television) (Mr. J. M. Donovan), and evidence relating to various aspects of the Australian broadcasting services was given by the Secretary (Mr. J. O'Kelly) and the Director of Programme Services (Mr. D. A. Jose). The Board also made the services of Mr. Donovan available to the Royal Commission, as desired and arranged for the preparation by the Board's librarian (Miss I. Eastwood) of a bibliography for incorporation in the report of the Royal Commission. The Commission had not presented its report at the time this report was being prepared.

#### THE TELEVISION ACT 1953.

59. In accordance with the decision of the Government which is recorded in paragraph 56, a bill relating to the provision of television services was introduced into the House of Representatives on 18th February, 1953, and was subsequently passed. In the course of his second-reading speech on the Bill, the Postmaster-General (Honorable H. L. Anthony, M.P.) stated that it was an interim measure, the main purposes of which were—

- (a) to provide statutory authority for the establishment of television services in the Commonwealth; and
- (b) to endorse the general principle that television should be developed in the Commonwealth on the same fundamental basis as had been so remarkably successful in respect of sound broadcasting.

The Minister also referred to the appointment of the Royal Commission on Television and said that the Government would, in due course, give Parliament an opportunity to discuss its detailed plans for the

regulation of both national and commercial television services. The principal provisions of the Act (which is cited as the *Television Act 1953*) are—

- (a) that the Postmaster-General may make television stations available for the transmission of national television programmes by the Australian Broadcasting Commission or some other authority empowered to provide such programmes;
- (b) that the Minister may grant licences for commercial television stations; and
- (c) that the Minister shall, before exercising his power to grant any such licence, take into consideration any recommendations made by the Board as to the exercise of that power.

#### PART III.—TECHNICAL SERVICES.

60. Section 6K of the Act requires the Board to "ensure the provision of services by broadcasting stations, television stations, and facsimile stations, and services of a like kind, in accordance with plans from time to time prepared by the Board and approved by the Minister".

61. As the Board has mentioned in previous reports, the provision of adequate services in a country like Australia, with its large area and uneven distribution of population presents many difficulties. As will be seen from Appendices "A" and "B" 44 national and 105 commercial medium frequency broadcasting stations have already been established and the map which follows Appendix "E" shows that these have been distributed widely throughout the more densely populated parts of the Commonwealth. There are, however, still many areas with substantial population where the service available to numerous listeners leaves much to be desired. During the year, representations were made to the Minister and to the Board by members of Parliament, local governing bodies, progress associations, and similar organizations, urging that an improved service should be provided for their districts, and the Board is fully convinced from the observations of its members and officers, during the course of official visits to many of the areas of indifferent service, that in a considerable number of instances the complaints which have been made are fully justified. Details of the Board's plans for effecting improvements were contained in previous reports, and in the following paragraphs of this report particulars are given of the progress which has been made in implementing the Board's proposals for the development of the National and Commercial Broadcasting Services. Reference will also be made in this Part to technical questions associated with the question of the introduction of television services into the Commonwealth.

#### PLANS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATIONAL BROADCASTING SERVICE.

62. In preparing its plans for the development of the National Broadcasting Service, the objective of the Board was—

- (a) to extend the coverage of the medium frequency national stations so as to provide satisfactory day and night reception of at least one such station for listeners throughout the Commonwealth, except those in the distant isolated areas for whom transmissions are provided in the short wave (high frequency) bands;
- (b) to enable the great majority of listeners, who are outside the primary coverage of the two national stations in each of the capital cities and Newcastle, to obtain from medium

frequency stations satisfactory night time reception of alternative programmes of the Australian Broadcasting Commission;

(c) to provide a higher signal to noise ratio in order to ensure a better service for listeners, particularly in industrial areas, where interference from electrical equipment is prevalent and also in the large areas of the Commonwealth which are subject to high atmospheric noise levels during summer months;

(d) to protect the service to Australian listeners against interference from very high powered stations which are being erected in neighbouring countries. As was stated in the Board's Fourth Annual Report, the need to protect Australian listeners against interference from very high powered stations in neighbouring countries has been emphasized by developments in southern Asia and the region north of Australia, where according to the latest available information, the number of stations operating or planned for operation on 50,000 watts or greater is as under:—

Stations with power of 150,000 watts ..	6
Stations with power of 100,000 watts ..	22
Stations with power of 50,000 watts ..	10

In addition, two New Zealand stations operate on 60,000 watts. The general trend towards the use of higher power increases the possibility of interference from overseas stations to Australian services, particularly in those areas in which listeners, because of their great distance from local stations, must rely on comparatively weak signals. The increase in the power of Australian stations, which is part of the Board's plan, will do much to minimize this interference.

63. The complete plan provided, with the approval of the Minister as required by the Act, for the establishment of seventeen new stations and an increase in the operating power of the 26 transmitters listed below:—

#### PROPOSED NEW REGIONAL STATIONS.

Proposed location.	Power (watts).
<i>New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory—</i>	
Bega .. .. .	10,000
Glen Innes .. .. .	10,000
Smithtown .. .. .	10,000
Canberra .. .. .	2,000
Wollongong .. .. .	2,000
<i>South Australia—</i>	
Penola .. .. .	2,000
Renmark .. .. .	2,000

#### PROPOSED NEW LOW-POWER STATIONS.

Proposed location.	Power (watts).
<i>New South Wales—</i>	
Armidale .. .. .	100
Murwillumbah .. .. .	200
<i>Victoria—</i>	
Bendigo .. .. .	200
Warrnambool .. .. .	200
<i>Queensland—</i>	
Southport .. .. .	200
<i>South Australia—</i>	
Mount Gambier .. .. .	200
Woomera .. .. .	100
<i>Western Australia—</i>	
Albany .. .. .	400
Northam .. .. .	200
<i>Tasmania—</i>	
Queenstown .. .. .	200

#### PROPOSED INCREASES IN POWER TO 50,000 WATTS.

	Power (watts).
<i>New South Wales—</i>	
2CR Cummoock .. .. . from	10,000
2NR Grafton .. .. .	7,000
2BL Sydney .. .. .	10,000
2FC Sydney .. .. .	10,000
<i>Victoria—</i>	
3WV Doon .. .. .	10,000
3AR Melbourne .. .. .	10,000
3LO Melbourne .. .. .	10,000
<i>Queensland—</i>	
4QR Brisbane .. .. .	10,000
4QN Townsville .. .. .	2,000
<i>South Australia—</i>	
5CL Adelaide .. .. .	5,000
<i>Western Australia—</i>	
6WF Perth .. .. .	5,000
6WA Wagin .. .. .	10,000

#### PROPOSED INCREASES IN POWER TO 10,000 WATTS.

	Power (watts).
<i>New South Wales—</i>	
2CO Corowa .. .. . from	7,500
2NA Newcastle .. .. .	2,000
2NC Newcastle .. .. .	2,000
<i>Victoria—</i>	
3GI Sale .. .. .	7,000
<i>Queensland—</i>	
4QL Longreach .. .. .	200
4QB Piabla .. .. .	2,000
4RK Rockhampton .. .. .	2,000
<i>South Australia—</i>	
5AN Adelaide .. .. .	2,000
<i>Western Australia—</i>	
6WN Perth .. .. .	6,000
<i>Tasmania—</i>	
7ZL Hobart .. .. .	2,000
7ZR Hobart .. .. .	7,000
7NT Kelso .. .. .	5,000

#### PROPOSED INCREASES IN POWER TO 2,000 WATTS.

	Power (watts).
5DR Darwin .. .. . from	200
9PA Port Moresby .. .. .	500

During the past year, two of the proposed new stations commenced operations, namely, 2CN Canberra on 21st January, 1953, and 4SO Southport on 11th October, 1952. With the addition of stations 2CN and 4SO, the National Broadcasting Service was, on 30th June, 1953, being provided by 44 medium frequency stations (including 9PA Port Moresby) and nine short wave stations, particulars of which are contained in Appendix B.

64. The implementation of the Board's plans is a project of considerable magnitude and it will involve the expenditure of a great deal of money. Whilst the Board is responsible for the preparation of the plans for the development of the National Service, including the determination of the frequency, power and situation of each station, it is the function of the Postmaster-General's Department, under the Act, to construct the new stations which are proposed and to install the equipment required to increase the power of existing stations. The acquisition of land required for new stations is the responsibility of the Department of the Interior and the erection of the required buildings the responsibility of the Department of Works. The Board feels that it is desirable to keep under constant review the progress being made by these departments so as to ensure the smooth progress of the proposals generally. For this reason, a standing committee consisting of representatives of all the organizations mentioned has been established and it meets regularly to review the progress which is being made. The Australian Broadcasting Commission is also represented on the Committee in order that the Commission's views may be adequately expressed on such aspects of the proposals as relate to the functions of the Commission.

65. The Board regrets to report that it has been found impracticable for various reasons to adhere to the original programme of works and that, in consequence, much desired improvements to the National Service will not be effected as soon as had been anticipated. Difficulties have been encountered in the acquisition of sites, unavoidable delays have occurred in connexion with the erection of buildings, and, because of the economic situation in 1952, the available funds have been limited, and restrictions have been imposed on the employment of the additional staff required for the technical work to be undertaken. Nevertheless, although it is possible to report the establishment during the past year of only the two new stations mentioned in paragraph 63, many other works are in various stages of progress and some are nearing completion. For example, 5WM Woomera commenced operations in September, 1953, and 2KP Smithtown is expected to commence its service in January, 1954. A new 580 feet anti-fading radiator for 6WF and 6WN Perth is expected to be completed before the end of 1953. The Board hopes that the members of the Standing Committee will continue to make every effort to expedite the completion of the particular aspects of the general plan for which their respective organizations are responsible.

PLANS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMMERCIAL BROADCASTING SERVICE.

*Increased Power for Country Stations on Shared Channels.*

66. The Fourth Annual Report of the Board (paragraphs 61-68) contained particulars of the action which had been taken by the Board, as the first stage in its plans for the development of the Commercial Broadcasting Service, to effect improvements in the service available to listeners in many rural areas by increasing the power of commercial stations operating on shared channels. Prior to 30th June, 1952, formal determinations had been made increasing the power of 59 of the 103 commercial stations then in operation and during the past year the power of four additional stations on shared channels was increased. The position now is that increased power has been authorized for 63 stations to the extent indicated hereunder, and that, in addition, twelve of these stations are permitted to use higher power during daylight hours:—

From	100 watts to	500 watts	..	..	Number of stations.
"	200	" " 500	"	"	2
"	300	" " 500	"	"	8
"	100	" " 1,000	"	"	3
"	200	" " 1,000	"	"	2
"	300	" " 1,000	"	"	9
"	500	" " 1,000	"	"	2
"	100	" " 2,000	"	"	11
"	200	" " 2,000	"	"	1
"	300	" " 2,000	"	"	7
"	500	" " 2,000	"	"	3
"	1,000	" " 2,000	"	"	11
"	1,000	" " 2,000	"	"	4

The Board, in determining the power increases, proceeded in accordance with provisional standards for power and frequency allocations under which protection against co-channel interference is afforded to the 2.5 millivolt/metre contour. Co-channel interference is evident only during hours of darkness, and generally it is practicable to permit higher power during daylight hours without causing interference with reception of other stations. The Board has advised licensees that it will consider applications for the use of higher power during daylight hours, and, as mentioned above, has authorized twelve stations to operate under these conditions as follows:—

- Ten stations using 1,000 watts at night to use 2,000 watts during daylight hours.
- One station using 500 watts at night to use 2,000 watts during daylight hours.

One station using 500 watts at night to use 1,000 watts during daylight hours. Details of power increases authorized by the Board for shared channel stations are contained in Appendix C.

67. At the time this report was being prepared, 50 of the 63 stations referred to in the preceding paragraph were operating on the higher power authorized by the Board, and considerable progress had been made by the licensees of most of the remaining thirteen stations with their plans to increase the power of their transmitters. As the Board pointed out in its last report, the great majority of the licensees concerned have had to incur expenditure of several thousand pounds on the purchase of new equipment and many of them had to acquire new sites and erect new buildings. It is greatly to their credit that, notwithstanding these high costs, they have welcomed this opportunity to improve their services to listeners and completed the task with so little delay. There is abundant evidence that, as a result of their efforts, listeners in the areas served by stations already operating on higher power, are enjoying much improved reception, and the extent of the improvement in the commercial service in country districts as a whole may be gauged from the fact that—

- (a) instead of 37 such stations operating with power below 500 watts, there will be only one such station (and in that case the lower power is due solely to a restriction caused by the agreement with the New Zealand Administration which is referred to in paragraph 83);
- (b) instead of four stations operating with 1,000 watts, there will be 24 using that power and an additional station using 1,000 watts during daylight hours;
- (c) instead of four shared channel stations (located in Western Australia) operating with 2,000 watts, there will be 29 such stations, and 11 others using 2,000 watts during daylight hours.

The use of higher power improves reception for listeners because it enables a stronger signal to be laid down within the service area of a station and, to some extent, it enlarges the coverage of the station, although in the case of shared channel stations the increase in coverage is limited to daylight hours. The benefits which have been conferred on listeners by the power increases mentioned above have, however, been greatly enhanced by the fact that at most of the stations concerned, new equipment conforming with the Board's technical standards has been installed and in many cases more efficient radiators have been erected. The Board has no precise information as to the total cost of these improvements but it is estimated to be some hundreds of thousands of pounds.

*Increased Power for Commercial Stations in Capital Cities and Newcastle.*

68. During the year, the Board also made considerable progress with the second stage of its plans for developing the Commercial Broadcasting Service, which is directed to improving the grade of service available to listeners from commercial broadcasting stations in the capital cities and Newcastle. This is a matter of great importance, as these stations serve approximately 65 per cent. of the total population of the Commonwealth, who reside in the metropolitan areas and Newcastle, and many thousands of additional listeners who live in adjacent country districts. The Board's investigations have disclosed that the grade of technical service being provided by these stations leaves much to be desired, due to the low power on which they have in the past been required to operate and also, in some cases, to inefficient equipment. The

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existing ceiling for operating power of commercial broadcasting stations is 2,000 watts, but in the capital cities and Newcastle, the power has been restricted to the following levels:—

	Watts.
Sydney .. .. .	1,000
Melbourne .. .. .	600
Brisbane .. .. .	1,000
Adelaide .. .. .	500
Perth .. .. .	500
Hobart .. .. .	500
Newcastle .. .. .	500

69. In the opinion of the Board, the power allotted in each case was quite inadequate to ensure the quality of reception which the great populations served by these stations are entitled to expect, and this unsatisfactory state of affairs has been aggravated in recent times by the fact that, whilst the power of commercial stations in the capital cities and Newcastle has remained for several years at the low levels outlined above, the intensity of electrical noise has been magnified by the greatly increased use of electrical appliances for industrial and commercial purposes. Moreover, there has been, since the war, a rapid outward expansion of the capital cities and Newcastle as a result of the erection of thousands of homes and many factories in new districts, in consequence of which there are now many thousands of listeners on the fringe of the service area of the commercial stations in those cities who are not assured of consistently reliable reception. An indifferent service is also being provided for listeners in country towns who have to rely on the capital city stations for commercial programmes.

70. As the Board has previously explained (see paragraph 63) it is intended to increase the power of national broadcasting stations substantially. National stations in the capital cities are being increased in some cases to 50,000 watts mainly because of the considerations mentioned in the preceding paragraph and the Board considers that the continued use of low power by the commercial stations in the capital cities and Newcastle cannot be justified, especially as at present they are permitted the exclusive use of the channels on which they operate in order that they may provide a thoroughly satisfactory service over a wide area. In this connection, it should be stated that in the course of its review of the operating conditions of these stations, the Board considered the suggestion which has frequently been made that they should be required to operate on shared channels for the purpose of providing frequencies for allocation to new stations in other areas. The Board, however, felt unable to adopt this course because—

(a) at the present time there are a great many listeners in country areas surrounding the capital cities who rely on the metropolitan stations for commercial programmes and who would be deprived of such a service at night time if the coverage of the stations was restricted as a result of the sharing of channels; and

(b) the operation of these stations on clear channels enables them to be received at night at great distances; although the strength of signal is low, reception in locations of low noise level is reasonably good and as a result numerous country listeners have access to popular programmes which would not otherwise be available to them.

The Board considered that the disadvantages which would result if the capital city stations and Newcastle stations were to share channels would outweigh any advantages which might be derived from the release of the channels which would become available.

71. Provision was made in the frequency list prepared at the Geneva conference (referred to in paragraph 82) and in the agreement between the Australian and New Zealand Administration (see paragraph 83) for the use of substantially higher power by Australian stations on the frequencies occupied by the capital city stations, and the technical problems associated with proposals to increase the power of these stations are not so acute as those associated with the power of shared channel stations. There are, however, some involved economic factors which have to be considered in relation to this question because of the necessity for maintaining the stability of the Commercial Broadcasting Service as a whole. During the past year, the Board had several discussions with the licensees of the stations concerned and subsequently determined, with the concurrence of the Minister, that the operating power of commercial broadcasting stations in Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth and Newcastle should be increased to 2,000 watts as from a date to be fixed. Finality had not been reached in respect of commercial stations in Sydney and Melbourne (except in the case of station 3AK which operates on a shared channel under special conditions as to hours of service) at the time this report was being prepared. Further details are given hereunder of the present position in respect of each of the capital cities and Newcastle.

*Hobart.*—Stations 7HO and 7HT Hobart operate on shared channels and their power was reviewed in conjunction with that of the other shared channel stations (see paragraphs 66 and 67). The Board authorized an increase in each case from 500 watts to 2,000 watts, on which power both stations commenced to operate on 9th May, 1953.

*Perth.*—The Board has determined that as from a date to be decided the power of stations 6IX, 6KY, 6PM and 6PR Perth shall be increased from 500 watts to 2,000 watts. It is impracticable to indicate at this stage when the increases will be effected as certain of the 2,000-watt transmitters will have to be established on new sites which are yet to be acquired. It is the general policy of the Board, in any case where two or more stations in the same area are authorized to increase power, to arrange for them to commence operations at the higher level at the same time.

*Adelaide.*—The Board has determined that as from a date to be decided the power of stations 5AD, 5DN and 5KA Adelaide shall be increased from 500 watts to 2,000 watts. Each of the three stations will have to be moved to another site before operating on 2,000 watts and whilst it is impracticable to indicate at this stage when the increases will be effected, it is expected that the Adelaide stations will commence operations on 2,000 watts early in 1954.

*Brisbane.*—The Board determined that, as from a date to be decided, the power of stations 4BC, 4BH, 4BK and 4KQ shall be increased from 1,000 watts to 2,000 watts, with the proviso that the power of station 4KQ shall be reduced to 1,000 watts at sunset. The limitation on the power of station 4KQ is necessary because of a provision in the agreement between Australia and New Zealand relating to the allocation of frequencies to broadcasting stations (see paragraph 83). Station 4KQ operates on the same frequency as station 3YA Christchurch (N.Z.) and the purpose of the restriction is to avoid interference with the reception in New Zealand of 3YA. The sites of the Brisbane stations were suitable for operation on 2,000 watts and they commenced transmissions on that power on 6th September, 1953.

*Melbourne and Sydney.*—Station 3AK Melbourne operates on a shared channel and its power was reviewed in conjunction with that of other shared channel stations (see paragraphs 66 and 67). The

Board authorized an increase from 200 to 500 watts, on which power 3AK commenced operation in September, 1951. The general observations in paragraphs 68 and 69 do not, in the circumstances, apply to station 3AK.

The Board has reached the tentative conclusion that the operating power of all commercial stations in Melbourne (except station 3AK) and Sydney should be increased to 5,000 watts in order to provide an adequate service throughout the very extensive metropolitan areas of these two cities, and in nearby country towns. At the time this report was being written no definite conclusions had been reached and the Board was still giving consideration to the views of the licensees of the stations concerned, and to representations made to the Board by licensees of country stations who consider that their economic position would be adversely affected by the contemplated increase in the power of the Sydney and Melbourne stations.

In Melbourne, transmitters could not be operated on 5,000 watts from the present sites of the five stations concerned without infringing the Board's Standards for the Technical Equipment and Operation of Broadcasting Stations and it will be necessary for the new locations of the stations to be chosen with great care in order that the greatest advantage may be derived from the increased power.

In Sydney there is also some doubt as to the suitability of certain of the sites of existing stations and at the time this report was being written certain tests were being made to enable the Board to gauge with greater certainty the suitability of some of the sites for operation on 5,000 watts.

*Newcastle.*—The Board has determined that the operating power of the two stations operating in Newcastle shall be increased to 2,000 watts as from a date to be decided. This date will be fixed having regard to certain adjustments which are being made in the frequency, power and location of stations 2CK and 2HR which are situated close to Newcastle.

#### *Clear Channel Stations for Country Districts.*

72. The Board has now reviewed the operating conditions of shared channel stations, and when it has finally determined the power to be used by the clear channel stations operating in Melbourne and Sydney it will have increased the power of 85 of the 105 commercial stations now in operation. The remaining 20 stations are operating on clear channels in country districts on 2,000 watts which, subject to the reservation that the power of the Sydney and Melbourne stations may be increased to 5,000 watts, is the highest power at present authorized for commercial stations. It is, in the opinion of the Board, desirable that the effect of the increases in power which have already been granted or are proposed should be carefully studied before further consideration is given to the operating conditions of the clear channel stations in country districts and the Board therefore does not, at the present time, contemplate any increase in the power of these stations.

#### *Additional Commercial Broadcasting Stations.*

73. The Board's immediate proposals in respect of the establishment of additional commercial stations are explained in paragraphs 22-26 of this report, in which it is indicated that the Minister has, on the recommendation of the Board, approved the grant of licences for Wangaratta in Victoria, and for Albany and the Northern Wheat Belt in Western Australia. As we have explained, the licensing of additional stations in New South Wales and Queensland is justified on the ground that several areas of substantial population which could support a local station are not being

adequately served by any existing commercial station, but this desirable expansion of the Commercial Service is difficult to achieve because of the fact that sufficient medium frequency channels are not available for this purpose. Reference has been made in earlier reports to this problem but in view of the fact that persistent representations are being made to the Minister and to the Board for licences for new stations, it is desirable again to summarize briefly the difficulties which confront the Board in this connexion.

74. Paragraph 82 contains particulars of the bands of frequencies which have been reserved under the International Telecommunications Convention for broadcasting stations. The medium frequency band, within which the normal broadcasting services of the Commonwealth operate, covers a band of 1,070 kC/s, from 535 to 1,605 kC/s. and as the Australian standards provide for a 10 kC/s. separation between each channel in order to prevent side channel interference between stations, there are 107 channels available for allocation to broadcasting stations. All of these channels (with the exception of one which, under the terms of an agreement between the Commonwealth and New Zealand administrations, Australia has undertaken not to use) have been assigned to the 149 stations already in operation and others which are projected (see paragraph 63). Eighty-eight existing stations are operating on shared channels, a system of operation which, whilst it has enabled additional stations to be established to provide a local service for most of the large centres of population throughout the Commonwealth, has the disadvantage of severely restricting the coverage of the sharing stations during hours of darkness. It is necessary, however, for them to be assured of a service area by day and night which embraces a sufficiently large audience to attract advertisers and the Board has therefore arranged sharing conditions in accordance with standards which afford protection against co-channel interference to the 2.5 millivolt/metre contour.

75. Frequencies can be allocated for additional stations only by an extension of shared channel operation and during the year the Board made a review of the frequency allocation plan for the purpose of ascertaining whether, by slight re-adjustments, channels could be reserved for new stations. It was forced to the conclusion that unless it were to lower the existing standards, a course which it would consider to be contrary to the public interest, only two channels could be made available for new commercial stations in the south-east area of the Commonwealth, one in Victoria, which has been allocated to the proposed Wangaratta station, and one in New South Wales. The position in those States is particularly acute because all the other channels which can be used on a sharing basis have already been allocated to the numerous stations which operate in what is the most densely populated part of the Commonwealth. The position in Western Australia and Northern Queensland is not so difficult because of their distance from this concentration of stations and, as indicated above, the Board has been able to provide frequencies for the expansion of the Commercial Service in Western Australia and at the time this report was being prepared, was considering the claims of certain areas in North Queensland. The Board is very concerned at its inability to authorize additional stations where they are needed in New South Wales and it is, of course, faced with a complex problem in deciding which of several areas in that State which are not at present well served by any station has the best claims to the single channel which is available. It is sometimes suggested that the shortage of frequencies might be overcome by a complete re-arrangement of the frequency allocation plan, but, in the opinion of the Board,

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this would cause great confusion both to the broadcasters and listeners without providing any worthwhile benefits. It has also been suggested that no great harm would result from a lowering of the standards governing the allocation of power and frequency of sharing stations and, in support of this view, conditions in the United States which, although using the same band of frequencies has licensed over 2,300 stations, are quoted as an example of what might be done in Australia. It would, however, be impracticable, for the reasons which were explained in paragraphs 66-98 of the Board's Second Annual Report, to adopt American practices in this country. The Board is continuing its investigations into this difficult question, bearing in mind the possibilities of the synchronization of stations (*see* paragraphs 78 and 79) and the ultimate use of very high frequencies for broadcasting stations (*see* paragraphs 84-87) in planning for the future development of the Australian broadcasting services.

#### UNATTENDED OPERATION OF BROADCASTING STATIONS.

76. The Board has given approval for the unattended operation of broadcasting transmitters to the licensees of eighteen commercial stations, on the usual conditions, namely—

- (a) the equipment to be used must be satisfactory with respect to supervision and control devices and protection against faults;
- (b) stand-by transmitters with satisfactory arrangements for changeover in the event of a fault must be provided, except in special cases approved by the Board;
- (c) a qualified technician must be available at short notice to attend to any fault which occurs.

Full particulars of the Board's requirements in this respect are contained in the Standards for the Technical Equipment and Operation of Broadcasting Stations referred to in the next paragraph. The major radio manufacturing firms have specially developed control equipment to comply with the Board's standards, and twelve of the eighteen stations have been operating on "remote control" for some time with quite satisfactory results. Four national regional stations are also being satisfactorily operated by "remote control".

#### STANDARDS FOR THE TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT AND OPERATION OF BROADCASTING STATIONS.

77. In pursuance of section 6K(1.) of the *Broadcasting Act 1942-1953*, which requires the Board to ensure that the technical equipment and operation of all broadcasting stations are in accordance with such standards and practices as the Board considers to be appropriate, the Board, on 17th March, 1952, formally adopted technical standards as a guide to the requirements in the administration of such of the provisions of the Act as relate to technical aspects of the broadcasting services. The purpose of the standards is to ensure that Australian broadcasting stations are installed, maintained and operated in conformity with modern engineering practices and great progress has been made towards this objective since the standards were issued. New transmitters and radiators conforming with the Board's requirements have been installed at many stations and, with few exceptions, the broadcasters have shown a commendable willingness to improve the technical efficiency of their stations, in many cases at considerable cost. It is important that the Australian services should secure the benefit of the advances which are constantly being made in broadcasting technique.

#### AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING COMMISSION—REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL PROGRAMME CHANNELS.

78. In its Fourth Annual Report, the Board drew attention to the views which have been expressed by the Australian Broadcasting Commission concerning the desirability of an additional network of national broadcasting stations being established, through which the Commission could transmit a third programme, in addition to the present "national" and "interstate" programmes. The Board explained that, as it would not be practicable to provide clear channels in the medium frequency broadcasting band for a number of high-power stations to ensure a wide coverage for a third programme, it had contemplated the possibility of establishing a chain of high-power stations, one in each capital city (other than Canberra and Hobart) synchronised on one channel in the 1,500-1,600 kilocycles portion of the medium frequency band. This system of operation has been successfully used in other countries, notably Great Britain for a number of years, but before its suitability for Australian conditions can be determined, it is necessary to conduct tests under actual operating conditions.

#### SYNCHRONISED OPERATION OF BROADCASTING STATIONS.

79. For this purpose, arrangements have been made with the co-operation of the Post Office and the Australian Broadcasting Commission for national regional station 4QS Dalby to operate synchronously with national regional station 4QN Townsville, on a frequency of 630 kilocycles per second, for about three months commencing on 12th October, 1953. During this period, the Commission will be somewhat handicapped in continuing to meet all the local service requirements of listeners to 4QN and 4QS and it will have to make substantial readjustments in the normal programme schedules of both stations. The Board fully appreciates these difficulties and is most grateful to the Commission for its assistance, without which the tests would not be possible. Arrangements have been made for comprehensive observations to be made of the operations of the two stations during the period of the tests, at the end of which the Board will be able to determine whether it would be practicable to provide another national network in the manner proposed in the preceding paragraph and whether it would be desirable to consider synchronised operation of certain existing stations so as to release additional channels for the extension of the medium frequency services to areas which are not yet being adequately served. As the Board mentioned in its Fourth Annual Report, the "third network" proposal raises financial, economic and other problems of great importance apart from the technical consideration to which reference has been made.

#### HIGH FREQUENCY (SHORT WAVE) BROADCASTING.

80. The previous paragraphs of this Part of the report relate to broadcasting stations operating in the medium frequency band, which when the Board's plans for their improvement are completed, will be providing a thoroughly reliable service for more than 95 per cent. of the people of the Commonwealth. The several thousands of listeners who are scattered in small communities throughout the sparsely populated areas of our country cannot rely on the medium frequency stations for reliable reception, and the only practicable means of providing a reasonably satisfactory service for them is by means of high frequency (short wave) transmitters. Programmes have been transmitted on high frequencies by the National Broadcasting Service for the benefit of these listeners for some years,

and at the present time there are nine short wave stations, details of which are given in Appendix B. The frequencies used for the short wave service are capable of reception over long distances, but as the bands of frequencies reserved under the International Radio Regulations for high frequency broadcasting are very congested, it is necessary, as was explained in the Board's Fourth Annual Report, to reach international agreement for their co-ordinated use if a reliable service is to be assured. The International Frequency Registration Board at Geneva (the I.F.R.B.) has for a considerable time been engaged on the preparation of a plan for the allocation of high frequencies to all nations desiring to use them and full particulars of Australian requirements have been furnished by the Board to the I.F.R.B.

81. During the past year, the I.F.R.B. examined all the data submitted by the various countries of the world, and found that the additional demands of a comparatively few countries had made its task of assigning channels to the various nations even more difficult than it had appeared to the Extraordinary Administrative Radio Conference held at Geneva in 1951. The I.F.R.B. was therefore forced to the conclusion that the additional allocations which had been requested could be arranged only by an undesirable degradation of the technical standards which had been considered necessary. As a result, the I.F.R.B. has asked all nations to reconsider their requirements, and to reduce them as far as practicable. The Board has reviewed the matter but it feels that Australian requirements cannot be reduced without curtailing the domestic short wave services which are at present being provided to remote Australian listeners. This attitude, the Board feels, is reasonable. Australia has already restricted its use of high frequencies to the limit assigned to the Commonwealth by a previous international conference at Mexico City in 1948, which prepared a draft plan which has since been accepted as a basis for equitable allocation of frequencies. Pending the ultimate production of the high frequency allocation plan by the I.F.R.B., it is now proposed that existing high frequency broadcasting services will continue to use their present channels and that new services will be operated after consultation with the I.F.R.B. on suitable channels which may be available. The position of Australia may be regarded for the time being as satisfactory insofar as it relates to channel reservations for existing internal services operating above 5.9 megacycles per second. It will, however, be necessary to utilize other bands for any expansion of those services, and in this connexion, the Board is now discussing with the Post Office and the Australian Broadcasting Commission the desirability of commencing broadcasting on frequencies in the 3.2-3.4 megacycles per second band, which are particularly useful for serving at night distances of the order of 300 miles from the transmitting station.

#### ALLOCATION OF FREQUENCIES.

82. Bands of frequencies for all classes of radio stations are allocated in accordance with the provisions of the regulations and international agreements made under the International Telecommunications Convention, and the bands of medium and high frequencies which are reserved for broadcasting stations are as follows:—

535- 1,605 kilocycles per second	per	Medium frequency band, world-wide use.
2,300- 2,495 kilocycles per second	per	Restricted to use in tropical regions, which for Australia under the International Telecommunications Convention covers the region north of latitude 35 degrees south.

3,200- 3,400 kilocycles per second	per	Restricted to use in tropical regions, which for Australia under the International Telecommunications Convention covers the region north of latitude 35 degrees south.
4,750- 4,995 kilocycles per second	per	Restricted to use in tropical regions, which for Australia under the International Telecommunications Convention covers the region north of latitude 35 degrees south.
5,005- 5,060 kilocycles per second	per	Restricted to use in tropical regions, which for Australia under the International Telecommunications Convention covers the region north of latitude 35 degrees south.
3,900- 4,000 kilocycles per second	per	High frequency band.
5,950- 6,200 kilocycles per second	per	High frequency band, world-wide use.
7,150- 7,300 kilocycles per second	per	High frequency band for world-wide use, except for American region.
9,500- 9,775 kilocycles per second	per	High frequency band, world-wide use.
11,700-11,975 kilocycles per second	per	High frequency band, world-wide use.
15,100-15,450 kilocycles per second	per	High frequency band, world-wide use.
17,700-17,900 kilocycles per second	per	High frequency band, world-wide use.
21,450-21,750 kilocycles per second	per	High frequency band, world-wide use.
25,600-26,100 kilocycles per second	per	High frequency band, world-wide use.
90- 108 megacycles per second	per	Very high frequency band for Region 3, which includes Australia.

83. The normal broadcasting services of the Commonwealth are provided by national and commercial broadcasting stations operating on channels within the medium frequency band of 535 to 1,605 kilocycles per second. The use of channels in that band is subject to any relevant agreements made between nations in certain defined regions, and it is of special interest to the Commonwealth that representatives of countries in Region 3 (which includes Australia, New Zealand, and countries in southern Asia and to the north of Australia) some time ago reached agreement with respect to their use of frequencies in the medium frequency band of 535 to 1,605 kilocycles per second. A list of existing and proposed broadcasting stations in Region 3, showing their power and assigned frequency, was prepared, and it was agreed that it should be operative as from 1st February, 1953. Provision was made for the use of frequencies in conformity with the plans for the development of the Australian broadcasting services which are explained in this report, and it is worthy of note that the conference between representatives of the Australian and New Zealand broadcasting authorities, which was held in Wellington in October, 1950 (and was commented upon in paragraphs 69 and 70 of the Board's Third Annual Report), greatly facilitated the Region 3 agreement. The problems associated with the allocation of frequencies for additional medium frequency stations in Australia are explained in paragraphs 73 to 75 of this report. Extensive use is being made by Australian short wave stations of channels within the high frequency bands, information concerning which services is contained in paragraphs 80 and 81. Experimental frequency modulation stations are operating in the very high frequency band in Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide and Brisbane, and some further observations on this subject are made in the following paragraphs.

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#### VERY HIGH FREQUENCY BROADCASTING.

84. It will be apparent from the views which the Board has expressed in paragraphs 73-75 of this report that serious difficulties are being experienced in connexion with the allocation of frequency channels within the medium frequency band for the establishment of additional stations in areas which are not yet being adequately served, and that the coverage of many important stations is restricted by virtue of the fact that they are required to share channels with other stations. The population of the Commonwealth is increasing rapidly and, with industrial expansion in many country areas, an appreciable rise in noise level is to be expected. New stations will, as a result, be required in the future in many areas where they are not contemplated at the present time. The shortage of medium frequencies has indeed been a serious limiting factor on the Board's plans for developing the Australian broadcasting services and with the passage of time the position will become more serious. It would be technically practicable to allocate medium frequencies for many additional stations if the existing standards for the allocation of frequencies and power to stations operating on shared channels were to be lowered, but as has already been mentioned in paragraph 75, this course is considered undesirable. The lowering of the standards would involve a further restriction at night on the service area of existing stations which share frequencies and any new stations which were authorized would be able to provide only a very limited service with the low power which could be allocated. The stations concerned would in consequence be at a great economic disadvantage with competitors operating under more favorable conditions.

85. The possibility of utilizing the very high frequencies (V.H.F.) for broadcasting services, therefore, appears very attractive against the rather depressing background of restrictions imposed by the shortage of available medium frequencies. There would be no interference between stations operating on very high frequencies and, if located on suitable sites, they would provide a much more extensive day and night service area than medium frequency stations operating on restricted shared channel conditions. They would, in addition, provide a better service in areas where atmospheric noise level is high and there are several such areas in the Commonwealth without any adequate broadcasting service. It may be added that the Board is satisfied, after careful investigation, that the form of modulation which should be used by V.H.F. broadcasting stations should be frequency modulation. This view is consistent with that of overseas broadcasting authorities.

86. In the first years of its existence, the Board felt obliged to concentrate on improvements in the services which were being provided by medium frequency stations to the 2,000,000 Australian homes which were equipped for reception in the medium frequency band. This was, in the opinion of the Board, an urgent matter, particularly in view of the fact that the receivers which were in use represented a capital outlay of the order of £100,000,000 and that if a listener wished to tune into a very high frequency station he would have to purchase a new receiver or an adaptor. It is important to note in this connexion that it is now practicable for a relatively inexpensive adaptor to be manufactured which, when connected to a medium frequency receiver, enables the listener to tune into programmes transmitted by frequency modulation stations in the V.H.F. band. The Board feels that the stage has now been reached when a definite plan should be prepared for the introduction of V.H.F. broadcasting and it proposes to do so, because it believes that the use of the very high frequencies will

facilitate arrangements for much desired improvements in, and the expansion of, the existing broadcasting services. The Board does not consider that the introduction of V.H.F. broadcasting should be delayed because of the advent of television services, as experience overseas indicates that sound broadcasting continues to provide an extensive service after the commencement of television. In any case, there appears to be great scope for V.H.F. stations in parts of the Commonwealth where television services are not likely to be provided for some years. Another factor of considerable importance is that the introduction of V.H.F. broadcasting simultaneously with, or prior to, the commencement of television services would encourage the development of television receivers capable of receiving V.H.F. programmes during periods when only sound broadcasting will be available.

87. Experimental transmissions were continued during the year on very high frequency broadcasting transmitters established in Sydney, Perth and Adelaide and a new V.H.F. experimental station has commenced operations in Brisbane. There has been some criticism of the expense involved in the continued operation of these stations, but both the Board and the Post Office, which have collaborated in the tests, are satisfied that they have been fully justified on technical grounds. Much useful experience has been gained by technical personnel in new techniques which have already proved of great value to the Post Office in relation to its communication network, and, as the propagation characteristics of television stations are almost identical with those of frequency modulation transmitters, much knowledge and experience has been gained which will be of great value in the future in regard to the development not only of frequency modulation services but of television services.

#### BRITISH COMMONWEALTH BROADCASTING CONFERENCE.

88. Paragraphs 84-86 of the Board's Fourth Annual Report contained some information concerning a conference held in London during June and July, 1952, which was attended by delegations from the United Kingdom, Canada, South Africa, New Zealand, India, Pakistan, Ceylon and Australia. The main object of the conference was to seek closer co-operation between the various broadcasting organizations of the British Commonwealth. One desirable result of the conference is that arrangements for the exchange of technical information on broadcasting and television between the countries represented at the conference are now on a much more satisfactory basis.

#### MEETINGS OF THE C.C.I.R. (COMITÉ CONSULTATIF INTERNATIONAL DES RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS).

89. A Study Group meeting of the C.C.I.R. was held at Geneva in August, 1952, the chief subject of interest to the Board being that of international standardization of recording characteristics of disc and tape recordings to facilitate the international exchange of programmes. The Board was not represented at this meeting but the documents have been carefully studied, including certain recommendations regarding recording characteristics, and in particular the frequency response for disc recordings at 30 and 15 inches per second. The technical committee of the Commonwealth Broadcasting Conference referred to in the preceding paragraph unanimously agreed that all Commonwealth countries would endeavour to accept the recording characteristics which the C.C.I.R. should eventually standardize for international exchange of programmes. The Board, after consulting the Post Office and the Australian Federation of Commercial Broadcasting Stations, decided to accept the standards proposed by the Study Group, and the C.C.I.R. has been informed accordingly. According to latest advice, nineteen

Administrations have accepted the disc recording standards and sixteen the tape recording standards. The proposed standards will be submitted by the Study Group to the C.C.I.R. plenary meeting to be held in London in September, 1953, at which the Board will be represented by its Director of Technical Services (Mr. D. McDonald).

#### TELEVISION.

90. The Board is obliged by section 6K of the *Broadcasting Act 1942-1953* to ensure "the provision of services by . . . television stations . . . in accordance with plans from time to time prepared by the Board and approved by the Minister" and to ensure that "the technical equipment and operation of such stations are in accordance with such standards and practices as the Board considers to be appropriate". Prior to the appointment of the Royal Commission on Television (referred to in paragraph 57) the Board had, in pursuance of these provisions of the Act, done a considerable amount of technical work in preparation for the introduction of television services. Although the Government's policy in respect of television will not be announced until it has considered the report of the ROYAL COMMISSION, the Board has continued with this work, the results of which will prove useful irrespective of the manner in which the Government decides that television is to be introduced. In particular, a great deal of work has been done in connexion with the selection of suitable sites for television stations intended to serve the State capital cities and Newcastle. The *Television Act 1953* provides for both national and commercial television stations. It is very desirable that all transmitters serving a community should be installed on the same site, as this practice, which is followed extensively in the United States, enables a viewer to employ a directional receiving aerial oriented in the direction of the group of transmitting stations, instead of a rotating receiving aerial or some other complicated device which would be required if a number of transmissions are to be received from different directions.

#### Standards.

91. Particulars of the television standards which had been determined by the Board in 1950 as a preliminary to the calling of tenders for the national television stations, which it had previously been intended to establish, were contained in Appendix D of the Board's Second Annual Report. In the time which has elapsed since the standards were determined, the Board has kept them under constant review in the light of developments overseas, and in particular of the proposed standards of the C.C.I.R. and it is likely that some modifications will be made before any further action is taken to establish television stations in the Commonwealth. The Board is, for example, considering a change in the frequency deviation of the sound transmission to  $\pm 50$  kilocycles per second instead of the present deviation of  $\pm 25$ , which was previously favoured because it was considered its adoption would help to reduce the cost of receivers. However, this consideration is not so important with the intercarrier receivers which are now being increasingly used overseas. The wider deviation would improve the sound quality in areas of high noise level and facilitate the manufacture of a receiver which could be used for the reception of programmes from both television and frequency modulation broadcasting stations. The Board is also considering a change in the time constant of the pre-emphasis characteristic of the sound transmission from 75 to 50 microseconds, and, further, the desirability of a minor change in the video wave form, which would render it suitable for the possible addition of colour television signals. The Board is closely following developments in colour television overseas because it is important that the Australian standards should be framed in such a way

as to facilitate the ultimate introduction of colour television into the Commonwealth, if it should be thought desirable to do so.

#### Television Receiver Intermediate Frequencies.

92. Reference has been made in previous reports of the Board to the need for determining standard intermediate frequencies for television receivers and it was indicated that a selection in the 30 to 40 Mc/s. band was proposed after consultation with the manufacturers. The choice of the standard intermediate frequencies is obviously a matter which calls for close co-operation between the Board and the manufacturers and if, after the general policy in respect of television has been determined, it is found necessary to make a major change in the proposed intermediate frequencies, the Board will again confer with the manufacturers on this important matter.

#### Colour Television.

93. The television services in the United States of America are at present transmitted in black and white but in October, 1950, the Federal Communications Commission of the United States promulgated standards for a colour television system developed by the Columbia Broadcasting System. This action was the subject of sharp controversy and doubts were expressed as to the prospects of success of the system, principally on the score of its incompatibility with the existing system, that is to say, the colour transmissions could not be received on television receivers designed for reception of the black and white pictures without alteration of the receivers. The production of colour receivers was subsequently suspended by order of the National Production Authority on the ground of national requirements for defence. Although this order has since been revoked, no colour receivers for the home have been manufactured, as technical research has indicated the likelihood of an acceptable system of compatible colour television being developed in the near future, which would enable the colour transmissions to be received in black and white on existing receivers. On 7th August, 1953, the Federal Communications Commission announced that it proposed to make rules covering the adoption of standards for the colour system developed by the National Television System Committee of America, an industry body comprising the principal electronic manufacturing companies. The British Broadcasting Corporation also transmits its television pictures in black and white, and the television standards determined by the Board envisage the introduction of television in this country on the same basis. However, in view of the developments in colour transmissions in the United States the Board is, as is indicated in paragraph 91, bearing in mind, in connexion with the Australian standards, any features which would facilitate a change at some future date to colour if it were deemed desirable.

#### EXPERIMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS.

94. In order to ensure the efficient discharge of its responsibilities in relation to technical aspects of broadcasting and television services, the Board has taken appropriate steps to ensure that its engineers have adequate opportunities to keep abreast of developments in broadcasting technique and the electronic industry. The Board has also arranged for the Post Office, in collaboration with its engineers, to undertake experimental work on specific problems. During the past year work of this nature covered such items as—

- (a) investigations into the relative sensitivity of typical medium frequency broadcast receivers at each end of the broadcast band, information which was required in connexion with the allocation of frequencies; and

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- (b) field strength recordings of distance medium frequency stations, the purpose of which is to secure data in connexion with the sharing of channels by stations.

The latter work has been proceeding for only a few months, but indications are that field strengths at the present low period in the eleven-year sunspot cycle are somewhat higher than the median curves of the Federal Communications Commission of the United States which have been used extensively. Similar work is being carried out to determine whether there is any variation in daylight field strengths with seasonal conditions. Effects of this nature have been observed overseas, but so far there has been no evidence of variations of a similar extent in Australia. The evidence obtained so far does not disclose any large variations in daylight field strengths, and this may be associated with climatic conditions in Australia which are more even than those in less temperate countries such as those in northern Europe.

#### MEDIUM FREQUENCY DIRECTIONAL AERIALS.

95. For some years, directional aerials have been a feature of medium frequency broadcasting practice in the United States of America, where they have been employed to reduce radiation in the direction of co-channel stations in order to reduce interference. The field strength of a station employing a directional aerial is, of course, reduced in a portion of its service area, but in many cases the population in the area so affected is small. Directional aerials have not so far been employed in Australia, but during the year consideration has been given to the possibility of their use by shared channel stations in the eastern States. In this way it may be practicable to improve the service rendered by certain stations by reducing the interfering signal from their sharing partners.

#### CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ON RADIO RESEARCH.

96. Several Commonwealth Departments and Organizations are engaged in activities involving the use of radio and, at the suggestion of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, an interdepartmental committee—the Consultative Committee on Radio Research—was established during the year, the functions of which are—

- (a) to discuss the fields of radio research of interest to the bodies represented on the Committee and to recommend ways and means of arranging for investigations to be carried out; and
- (b) to act as a means of liaison between the bodies represented so that all may be informed of research work being carried out in Australia and its results, particularly those which are important in their practical applications in radio.

The Board welcomed the establishment of this Committee, which it feels can act as a very efficient medium, on the one hand for preventing duplication of effort by Commonwealth Departments and instrumentalities, and on the other for ensuring that the various Commonwealth organizations interested in radio are kept informed of the results of research carried out by any of the bodies represented on the Committee. Meetings of the Committee are held at the Head Office of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization and the Chairman is Dr. F. W. G. White of that organization. The Board's representative is the Director of Technical Services (Mr. D. McDonald).

## PART IV.—PROGRAMME SERVICES.

### GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS.

97. The Board's responsibilities in relation to broadcast programmes are described in general terms in section 6K (1.) of the Act as an obligation to ensure that adequate and comprehensive programmes are provided by broadcasting stations "to serve the best interests of the general public". The primary responsibility for the production of programmes rests with the Australian Broadcasting Commission and the licensees of commercial broadcasting stations and section 6K (2.) of the Act provides that in the exercise of this function the Board shall consult the Commission and representatives of the licensees of commercial broadcasting stations in relation to the programmes of the National and Commercial Broadcasting Services respectively. The Board is directly concerned with the programmes of the commercial broadcasting stations because licensees are obliged to provide programmes "in such manner as to ensure as far as practicable" that they are "to the satisfaction of the Board". The Commission on the other hand is required by the Act, to "take in the interests of the community all such measures as, in the opinion of the Commission, are conducive to the full development of suitable broadcasting programmes" for transmission from the national stations.

98. It is the practice of the Commission to include in its annual report each year an extensive account and a detailed analysis of the programmes which it has presented over the national stations. These details give a general indication of the high quality and the comprehensive nature of the service provided by the Commission and some idea of its scope may be obtained from the following summary in respect of stations 2FC and 2BL which are typical of the National Service as a whole:—

	Per cent. of total programme time 1951-52.
Classical Music .. .. .	21.84
Light Music .. .. .	18.49
Variety .. .. .	16.31
Drama and Features .. .. .	4.39
Children's Session .. .. .	1.95
Youth Education .. .. .	3.18
Talks .. .. .	6.75
Parliament .. .. .	3.97
Religion .. .. .	3.70
News .. .. .	7.70
Sport .. .. .	5.03
Rural Services .. .. .	1.75
Miscellaneous .. .. .	4.94

There is available no such published account of the details of the programmes provided by the Commercial Broadcasting Service as a whole. The Board has come to the conclusion that it should obtain much additional statistical information of this kind concerning the programmes of commercial stations and it has taken steps to do so after having conferred with the Liaison Committee of the Australian Federation of Commercial Broadcasting Stations. The Liaison Committee questioned the necessity for obtaining such information, but the Board is quite satisfied that its obligations under the Act cannot be effectively discharged unless it is in possession of much more detailed statistical information than is at present available. Amongst other reasons for desiring to obtain this information, the Board considers that the matter is one of such great public interest that further details of the extensive service provided by commercial stations should be included in its Annual Report. The proper performance of its duties in relation to programmes requires that the Board shall also be fully and reliably informed concerning the types and quality of particular programmes and, during the past year, the Board secured much useful information concerning the general trend of Australian programmes, and the standard of programme service being provided by

individual stations, by consultations with the Australian Broadcasting Commission and the Liaison Committee of the Australian Federation of Commercial Broadcasting Stations, by extensive observations of programmes and by the inspection of 41 commercial stations by officers of the Programme Services Division.

99. As mentioned in paragraph 97, the Board's general responsibility is to ensure that adequate and comprehensive programmes are provided "to serve the best interests of the general public". On the evidence gathered by it during the year, the Board feels that the programmes being provided at the present time by both the National and Commercial Services may, on the whole, be said to meet with the requirements of Parliament. So far as the Commercial Service is concerned, there is undoubtedly room for improvement in many directions, to some of which attention will be invited in succeeding paragraphs, but in the opinion of the Board, the broadcasters are meeting with success in their efforts to satisfy the wide divergence of tastes of the great audience of the general public. As has been previously pointed out in the Board's reports, the task of devising and presenting programmes of sufficient quality and variety over the lengthy periods during which broadcasting stations are expected to be in operation is one of very considerable difficulty. The commercial stations have special problems arising from the economic basis of the service, which is revenue derived from advertising. It will therefore be appreciated that judgments on the overall performance of commercial broadcasting stations and the quality of their programmes must be made in the light of considerations such as these, and also of the prevailing standards in public entertainment. They must necessarily therefore be somewhat guarded. It will be noted, however, that in paragraph 122 we find it necessary to refer to some evidence of a decline in the standards of certain programmes, a matter which has caused the Board some concern.

100. In succeeding paragraphs, comment is also made on the specific requirements of the Act (section 6K (2.)) that the Board shall, in particular—

- (i) ensure reasonable variety of programmes;
- (ii) ensure that divine worship or other matter of a religious nature is broadcast for adequate periods and at appropriate times and that no matter which is not of a religious nature is broadcast by a station during any period during which divine worship or other matter of a religious nature is broadcast by that station;
- (iii) ensure that facilities are provided on an equitable basis for the broadcasting of political or controversial matter;
- (iv) determine the extent to which advertisements may be broadcast in the programme of any commercial broadcasting station; and
- (v) fix the hours of service of broadcasting station, television stations and facsimile stations.

#### VARIETY OF PROGRAMMES.

101. One of the Board's obligations is to ensure "reasonable variety of programmes". In previous reports, the Board has indicated that it is the practice of the Australian Broadcasting Commission and the licensees of commercial broadcasting stations to frame their programmes in such a way as to satisfy, as far as is practicable, the differing tastes of listeners throughout the day. In most areas of the Commonwealth, listeners are assured of satisfactory reception of at least one national and one commercial station and in the capital cities, where approximately 65 per cent. of the total population of the Commonwealth

reside, listeners are in a position to receive the programmes of two national and a number of commercial stations, ranging from two in Hobart to six in Sydney. Generally speaking, therefore, listeners have a choice of programmes and are assured of "reasonable variety" at most times of the day. In its Fourth Annual Report the Board drew attention to complaints that there were still occasions when a number of stations in the same locality simultaneously broadcast the same type of programmes, generally a sporting programme. The matter is under constant review and the Board has noted some improvement during the past year: for example, a Melbourne station which had previously undertaken extensive racing broadcasts has provided an uninterrupted description of football throughout the winter, a service which was much appreciated by Melbourne listeners. The Board is pursuing this matter because there are still some notable cases of overlapping which, in the opinion of the Board, are not in the public interest. One case in particular which calls for attention is the broadcasting by five stations in Sydney every Monday night of descriptions of boxing contests, irrespective of the calibre of the contestants.

102. There is still a noticeable lack of originality in the approach of many licensees to the development of new programmes and the tendency to imitate programmes of other stations has during the year under review produced a sameness in certain types of sessions, the effect of which is to limit the choice of programmes for listeners. One development of this character is the extension to so many programmes of "give away" awards or prizes, a practice which is now so general as to provoke speculation as to whether the awards are intended to attract an audience which could not be attracted by the intrinsic merit of the programme itself. In connexion with this type of programme, it is appropriate to mention that several complaints were received during the past year that listeners had been invited to participate in competitions without any chance of winning the prize. The Board investigated the matter and ascertained that the principal cause for complaint seemed to be that, as some of the programmes containing competitions are recorded several days in advance of broadcasting, a competition may be won some time before the public is informed; consequently during the intervening period time and money was expended in submitting entries which had no hope of winning. This possibility had apparently been overlooked by the stations concerned which, after their attention was drawn to the matter, took steps to remove any cause for further complaints.

#### RELIGIOUS BROADCASTS.

103. The Board is, as mentioned in paragraph 100, obliged by law to ensure that divine worship or other matter of a religious nature is broadcast for adequate periods and at appropriate times. The quality and extent of religious broadcasts on the National Service continues to be most satisfactory and the work of the Australian Broadcasting Commission is, the Board feels, meeting with the general approval of the public and the Churches. The position in the Commercial Service can also be regarded as satisfactory on the whole because of the willingness of most of the licensees of commercial stations to comply generously with the general principles which the Board adopted in 1949 for their guidance in connexion with religious broadcasts. (Full details of these principles were given in paragraph 146 of the Board's Second Annual Report.) Briefly, the Board's standards in this field are that each commercial station should devote at least one hour each week to the broadcasting of religious matter, either by way of broadcasts of divine worship on Sundays or by studio presentations throughout the week, the

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duration of which aggregates at least one hour. Facilities for these broadcasts should be made available to the various denominations according to their numerical strength and no charge should be made for the service. At 30th June, 1953, commercial stations were allocating a total of 274 hours per week, free of charge, to religious programmes, an average of more than 2½ hours per station. Only two of the 105 commercial stations then in operation were, in the opinion of the Board, failing to provide adequate facilities for religious broadcasts, and the Board has taken the matter up with these stations.

#### POLITICAL BROADCASTS.

##### *Provision of Equitable Facilities.*

104. The Board is required by section 6K of the Act "to ensure that facilities are provided on an equitable basis for the broadcasting of political or controversial matter", but its obligations in this regard apply only to the Commercial Broadcasting Service, as under section 89 of the Act, the Australian Broadcasting Commission has complete authority to arrange as it thinks fit for the broadcasting of political and controversial matter over national stations. In its Second Annual Report, the Board reported fully upon its attempt to ensure equitable facilities for the various parties in the 1949 Federal election, and because of its experience on that occasion strongly urged that the whole question of political broadcasts should be reviewed by the Parliament. The Board again invites attention to its observations in that report. During the year under review an election for 32 Senators took place on 9th May, 1953, and elections for State Legislative Assemblies were held in Victoria (6th December, 1952), New South Wales and Western Australia (14th February, 1953), and Queensland and South Australia (7th March, 1953).

##### *Broadcasts from Commercial Stations by Party Leaders throughout the Senate Election Campaign.*

105. Following its usual practice, the Board obtained details of the broadcasts undertaken in connection with these elections and particulars are given hereunder of the broadcasts relating to the Senate election. The initial speeches which were delivered by the Parliamentary leaders of the Government and Opposition Parties were broadcast on interstate relay by the Australian Broadcasting Commission for a period of one hour in each case. Returns indicate that of the 104 commercial stations in operation at the time, 93 broadcast all or part of both speeches, 10 broadcast all or part of one speech, and one station broadcast neither. In Queensland four stations also broadcast initial speeches for the Democratic Party.

##### *Other Broadcasts by Parliamentary Parties and Members of such Parties from Commercial Stations.*

106. In addition to the broadcasts of initial speeches by Party leaders the commercial stations allocated a total of 494 hours for the broadcasting of political matter by the parties and candidates. This represents an average of approximately five hours per station. The allocation of time by metropolitan and country stations was as follows:—

	Hours.
Metropolitan (25 stations) .. ..	122
Country (79 stations) .. ..	372
Total .. ..	494

Political matter of some kind was broadcast by all stations. The following table shows the allocation of time under this heading among various parties and candidates.

#### TIME ALLOCATED TO THE VARIOUS PARTIES AND CANDIDATES (PERCENTAGES).

##### METROPOLITAN STATIONS.

	Commonwealth.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Labor Party .. ..	48.5	68.6	71.6	38.0	46.1	39.5	45.9
Liberal and Country Parties .. ..	43.7	29.8	21.3	51.3	43.8	56.8	41.7
Others* .. ..	5.6	1.6	7.1	9.9	10.1	3.7	2.7
Independent candidates .. ..	2.2	..	..	0.8	..	..	9.7
Total .. ..	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

##### COUNTRY STATIONS.

	Commonwealth.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Labor Party .. ..	43.7	42.1	21.6	59.6	46.3	37.4	39.1
Liberal and Country Parties .. ..	50.1	53.5	70.6	33.7	49.3	58.8	50.7
Others* .. ..	5.8	3.7	7.8	5.9	4.4	3.8	10.2
Independent candidates .. ..	0.4	0.7	..	0.8	..	..	..
Total .. ..	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

##### METROPOLITAN AND COUNTRY STATIONS COMBINED.

	Commonwealth.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Labor Party .. ..	44.9	46.0	33.1	55.0	46.2	38.1	41.3
Liberal and Country Parties .. ..	48.5	50.0	59.2	37.5	47.2	58.1	47.7
Others* .. ..	5.8	3.4	7.7	6.7	6.6	3.8	7.8
Independent candidates .. ..	0.8	0.6	..	0.8	..	..	3.2
Total .. ..	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

\*Other parties consisted of—  
Tasmanian Labor Group.  
Lang Labor Group (New South Wales and Queensland).

Communist Party (all States except Queensland).  
Democratic Party (Queensland).  
Country Democratic League (Western Australia).

*Broadcasts from Commercial Stations by Organizations which conducted programmes containing political matter during the Election Period.*

107. Broadcasts in this category occupied an additional eleven hours from 20 commercial stations and represented approximately 1.5 per cent. of the total time (including party leaders' initial speeches) devoted by commercial stations to broadcasts connected with the Senate elections. The majority of these broadcasts took place from stations in country towns, the division of the total time involved between metropolitan and country areas being as follows:—

	Hours.
Metropolitan .. .. .	3
Country .. .. .	8
Total .. .. .	11

Seven organizations participated in these broadcasts and only two of these used more than 10 per cent. of the total time allocated to organizations. The following table sets out the distribution of time between these two groups generally:—

*Broadcasts by Organizations—Allocation of Time (percentages).*

	Per cent.
Queensland Institute of Public Affairs .. .. .	25.9
Clothing Trades Union .. .. .	2.5
Queensland Trades and Labor Council .. .. .	3.2
Ballarat Pastrycooks Association .. .. .	2.5
Peoples Union .. .. .	55.7
Richmond Tweed Trades and Labor Council .. .. .	2.4
Australian Constitutional League .. .. .	7.8
Total .. .. .	100

NOTE.—The above statement does not take into account any part of any programmes sponsored by any of the above organizations which did not consist of political matter.

*Total Times for Senate Election Broadcasts from Commercial Stations.*

108. The total time allocated to broadcasts of political matter by commercial stations during the Senate election period amounted to 706 hours made up as follows:—

	Hours.
Party leaders' initial speeches .. .. .	201
Broadcasts by parliamentary parties and members of such parties .. .. .	494
Broadcasts by organizations .. .. .	11
Total .. .. .	706

This total of 706 hours represents an average of 6.8 hours per station, or 1.22 per cent. of the total hours of transmission by the commercial stations during the election period of 35 days. The following table shows the use made of commercial broadcasting stations for political purposes in the election periods preceding the last three federal elections, and for the referendum of 1951:—

Election.	Total time occupied by political matter during election period.	Average time per station.	Per centage of station time during election period.
	Hours.	Hours.	
House of Representatives, December, 1949 .. .. .	2,146	21.25	4.2
Senate and House of Representatives, April, 1951 .. .. .	1,256	12.3	3.1
Senate, May, 1953 .. .. .	706	6.8	1.22
Referendum, September, 1951 .. .. .	796	7.7	..

*National Broadcasting Service.*

109. Political broadcasts from the national stations were allocated on the same principle for the 1953 Senate election as had been applied to the preceding general election for the House of Representatives, namely, an equal division of time between the Government and the Opposition, at the rate of eight hours per station. These broadcasts were made from one station in Canberra, from one metropolitan station in each State, from one station in Newcastle and from all regional stations.

ADVERTISING.

110. Provision for the regulation of advertising by commercial broadcasting stations is contained in the *Broadcasting Act 1942-1953*. Section 6K (2.) requires the Board "to determine the extent to which advertisements may be broadcast in the programmes of any commercial broadcasting station", and section 61 provides as follows:—

(1.) Subject to this Act, the licensee of a commercial broadcasting station may broadcast advertisements.

(2.) A licensee desiring to broadcast advertisements shall publish a tariff of advertising charges, and, except as prescribed, shall make his advertising service available without discrimination to any person.

(3.) A licensee shall not broadcast advertisements on a Sunday except in such manner and in accordance with such conditions as the Board determines.

(4.) Except as prescribed, an advertisement relating to any medicine shall not be broadcast unless the text of the proposed advertising matter has been approved in writing by the Director-General of Health, or, on appeal to the Minister under this section, by the Minister.

(7.) Any person may appeal to the Minister from any decision of the Director-General of Health or a delegate of the Director-General of Health.

In its Fourth Annual Report, the Board stated that although the commercial broadcasting stations relied on advertising for their income, it was necessary for several reasons for a proper balance to be maintained, in the public interest, between the duty which licensees owe to advertisers who purchase time on their stations and their fundamental obligation to provide "adequate and comprehensive programmes" for the community as a whole. The Board referred in that Report to the many complaints which have been made from time to time concerning excessive advertising and investigations which it subsequently made suggested that there was good cause for these complaints. In the course of its inquiries, cases came to the notice of the Board where as many as eight advertisements had been broadcast consecutively and where as much as 32 minutes had been devoted to advertising in an hour. Whilst the Board would not suggest that these cases are typical of the general attitude of licensees to this question, it was satisfied that there was sufficient evidence of excessive advertising, particularly in sessions before and after the main morning and evening news broadcasts, to confirm the opinion expressed in its Fourth Annual Report that licensees should be required to observe certain standards designed to limit the length of any advertisement and the number of advertisements which may be broadcast consecutively in any one group. The Board accordingly continued the discussions on this matter, which were proceeding at the time the Fourth Annual Report was being prepared, between the Board and the Liaison Committee of the Australian Federation of Commercial Broadcasting Stations, the Australian Association of Advertising Agencies, and the Australian Association of National Advertisers. After careful consideration of their views and examination of the rules relating to advertising which were adopted some years ago by the Federation, as well as the rules and practices of the United States of America and Canada, the Board made a determination, pursuant to the provisions of section 6K (2.) of the Act, as to the extent to which

advertisements might be broadcast by commercial stations on any day, except Sundays in respect of which special conditions apply (*see* paragraph 112).

111. The standards which were notified to all commercial stations on 13th October, 1952, are set out hereunder:—

- (a) In the case of advertisements in sponsored sessions, the number of words and the maximum time occupied by the complete presentation of such advertisements should not exceed the following:—

Duration of sponsored programme.	Number of words permissible for advertisements.	Maximum duration of presentation of advertisements.
	Words.	
5 minutes .. ..	150	1 minute
7½ minutes .. ..	200	1 minute 30 seconds
10 minutes .. ..	250	2 minutes
15 minutes .. ..	300	2 minutes 30 seconds
30 minutes .. ..	450	3 minutes
45 minutes .. ..	600	4 minutes 30 seconds
60 minutes .. ..	750	6 minutes

For programmes exceeding 60 minutes the rate at which advertising matter is broadcast should not exceed 125 words in a maximum period of one minute for each ten minutes of overall programme time.

- (b) Direct advertising announcements ("spot advertisements") should be distributed at reasonable intervals throughout periods set aside for the broadcasting of such announcements, and should not be so placed as to destroy the value of the entertainment or service provided in the remainder of such programme periods.
- (c) In the case of direct advertising announcements ("spot advertisements") and of time purchased for announcements only, the following standards should be observed:—

Type of announcement.	Maximum time or words permitted for complete presentation of announcement.
25 word announcement .. ..	15 seconds
50 word announcement .. ..	25 seconds
100 word announcement .. ..	45 seconds
1 minute .. ..	140 words

- (d) Direct advertising announcements ("spot advertisements") may be grouped, provided that not more than three advertisements occur in any one group and no group exceeds one and one-half minutes in duration.
- (e) Of any programme period during which direct advertising announcements ("spot advertisements") are broadcast not more than 30 per cent. may be devoted to advertising matter; and not more than eighteen minutes may be so occupied in any period of 60 minutes.
- (f) The limitations of the preceding paragraphs do not apply to advertising matter which is broadcast in the form of a service programme such as a "shopping guide", or programmes consisting of market reports or service matter, provided that the total time devoted to such programmes does not exceed nine hours in any one period of seven days.

In the opinion of the Board, these conditions permit broadcasters to make adequate time available for advertising purposes whilst maintaining a high standard of programme service. This opinion is supported

by observations which have been made by the Board's officers since the standards were promulgated. It has been necessary for the Board to draw the attention of some licensees to blatant disregard of the standards relating to direct ("spot") advertising but, having had their attention drawn to the matter, these licensees have adjusted their advertising schedules. Some excesses have also been observed in sponsored sessions, particularly those in which "give aways" are included, but the position generally in respect of the extent of advertising in the Commercial Broadcasting Service has been greatly improved since the standards were issued.

#### SUNDAY ADVERTISING.

112. The conditions set out in the preceding paragraph apply to the broadcasting of advertisements from Monday to Saturday but advertising on Sundays is regulated by special conditions determined by the Board in pursuance of section 61 (3.) of the Act which prescribes that "a licensee shall not broadcast advertisements on Sunday except in such manner and in accordance with such conditions as the Board determines". The conditions determined by the Board for Sunday advertising were fully explained in paragraphs 125 to 127 of its Fourth Annual Report. Observations made during the year indicated that several stations were not fully observing restrictions imposed on Sunday advertising and appropriate action has been taken to remedy the matter. The most noticeable infringements of the conditions were observed in the programmes of a few stations in which an excessive amount of direct ("spot") advertising was interspersed between sessions consisting mainly of popular music.

#### MEDICAL ADVERTISEMENTS AND TALKS.

113. No appeals were made under section 61(7.) of the Act which provides for a right of appeal to the Minister from any decision of the Director-General of Health concerning the text of an advertisement relating to any medicine. Under section 94 of the Act a talk on a medical subject may not be broadcast unless the text thereof has been approved by the Director-General of Health, from whose decision an appeal may be made to the Minister. One such appeal was lodged during the year, concerning the text of a documentary programme dealing with the rehabilitation of a tuberculosis patient. After carefully considering the appeal, and after considering the opinion of the Professor of Physiology at the University of Melbourne, Professor R. D. Wright, the Minister dismissed the appeal.

#### HOURS OF SERVICE.

114. The hours of service of 29 commercial broadcasting stations were increased during the year and at 30th June, 1953, the transmitting time of 105 stations then in operation aggregated 11,561 hours per week, or 421 hours per week more than at the close of the previous year. Of the 105 commercial stations, only thirteen now observe transmission periods which aggregate less than the minimum of 96 per week, which the Board has adopted as a general guide to its requirements and in some of these cases there are special considerations which justify the shorter transmission schedules. Temporary variations of the hours of commercial stations were authorised during the year on 1,131 occasions. The 53 stations of the National Service were operating for a total of 6,024 hours per week at 30th June, 1953, representing a slight increase on the previous year. Temporary variations in the transmission time by these stations were made on 1,933 occasions. Transmission hours of each national and commercial station are shown in Appendices A and B. The large number of temporary variations during the year arose from the desire of all stations to give

adequate coverage to the Coronation broadcasts and of many stations to broadcast descriptions of the Test Cricket played in England. In each of these cases, the Board gave general approval for an extension of hours, except in the case of 2BS Bathurst and 3AK Melbourne, which are limited to their normal hours of service by reason of their operating conditions on a shared frequency channel.

115. Station 3AK was licensed in 1931 under special conditions in accordance with which its hours of service are restricted to the following:—

Week-days—

12 midnight-7 a.m.; 11.30 p.m.-12 midnight.

Saturdays—

12 midnight-7 a.m.; 1 p.m.-2 p.m.; 11.30 p.m.-12 midnight.

Sundays—

12 midnight-4 a.m.; 12.30 p.m.-2.30 p.m.; 10 p.m.-12 midnight.

The licensee of this station has made representations to successive Ministers over a lengthy period and also to the Board with the object of securing some variation in the permitted hours of operation. The conditions under which this station and station 2BS share the same frequency also give rise to some difficulties for the latter station, and the whole matter was under consideration at the close of the period to which this report relates.

#### BROADCASTS IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES.

116. The principles adopted by the Board for the guidance of licensees of commercial broadcasting stations in connexion with broadcasts in foreign languages were contained in paragraph 132 of its Fourth Annual Report. During the year several cases came under notice in which licensees failed to observe the requirement that matter broadcast in a foreign language should be followed by an adequate translation into English. After negotiations with the stations concerned, these programmes were satisfactorily adjusted. A recommendation was made by the Australian Citizenship Convention, held in January, 1953, that the possibility of broadcasting church services in the mother tongues of migrants should be investigated. The Board's principles governing broadcasts in foreign languages had made a general provision for such programmes on special occasions, such as national days, but had not envisaged regular broadcasts of this nature. After consulting the Department of Immigration, the Board agreed that church services in foreign languages might be broadcast provided adequate alternative programmes were available during the period of the broadcasts in a foreign language.

#### BROADCASTING OF PERSONAL MESSAGES.

117. Section 86 of the *Broadcasting Act 1942-53* provides as follows:

The Commission or a licensee of a commercial broadcasting station shall not, except in so far as it or he is permitted by or under this Act so to do, transmit or receive for transmission any message the transmission of which would, without the authority of, or licence granted by, the Minister administering the *Post and Telegraph Act 1901-1934*, or the *Wireless Telegraphy Act 1905-1936*, contravene the provisions of either of those Acts.

The purpose of this section is to prevent broadcasting stations being used for the sending of messages which should ordinarily be transmitted over the normal communication channels of the Postmaster-General's Department.

118. A broadcasting station is defined in the Act as a station "for the transmission of matter intended for aural reception by the general public" and the transmission of messages to individuals is not a normal function of such a station. It has, however, always been an accepted principle that a broadcasting station may, in cases of extreme emergency, broadcast a message to a person to whom it could not be otherwise conveyed, and the broadcasting of birthday and what are known as "cheerio" calls has been permitted under certain conditions. In recent times there has been some evidence of a tendency for some stations to depart from the generally accepted restrictions on the broadcasting of personal messages and during the year the Board, after conferring with the Postmaster-General's Department, thought it was desirable to determine specific conditions for the guidance of the broadcasters in connexion with these broadcasts. These conditions are as follows:—

Messages intended primarily for individual listeners should not be broadcast except in such emergencies and except on such conditions as are set out below:—

- (a) Urgent messages to persons whose present whereabouts are unknown, or who are temporarily isolated owing to breakdown of normal communication channels; provided that such messages are verified and approved by a senior officer of the Police Force, or his deputy;
- (b) In extreme emergency, and in the absence of any suitable or approved authorizing officer, a station manager may assume responsibility for accepting and transmitting messages of an urgent and essential nature which he considers to be in the public interest. A record of such messages should be retained by the station for at least six months after the date of broadcasting;
- (c) Birthday and cheerio calls may be broadcast only during periods selected by the station for the purpose. Such periods may be fixed (e.g., the children's session, women's session, sporting session, etc.) or intermittent (e.g., broadcast of balls, charitable appeals, etc.) but the Board should be kept informed of all periods in both categories in which the station proposes to broadcast such messages;
- (d) No person, whether employed by a broadcasting station or not, should broadcast any message containing information of a personal nature relating either to himself or to an individual listener, except within the provisions of paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) above.

In framing these conditions the Board was conscious of the value of programmes in which a link exists between the broadcasting station and particular individuals (e.g., in women's and children's sessions based on correspondence). It therefore made provision for the broadcasting of answers to correspondents in appropriate sessions, on condition that the matter broadcast should be of general interest and not limited in application to only one listener.

#### EMERGENCY MESSAGES TO AMBULANCES.

119. For some years certain stations have had approval to broadcast messages, in case of emergency, to ambulances fitted with broadcast receivers provided such messages were limited to a request to the ambulance driver to telephone his headquarters for instructions. At the suggestion of several commercial stations the matter was re-examined during the year, and, after consultation with the Post Office, the Board decided that, in certain circumstances, the general principles governing the broadcasting of personal messages should be applied to the transmission of messages to ambulances not in direct radio communication with their bases. Before giving approval to a station to apply these principles to an ambulance service, the Board will examine the conditions prevailing in the area which it serves, with particular reference to the availability of existing communication services.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE.

120. The Board is pleased to record a growing consciousness among commercial stations of their value to the public in the field of community service. The majority of stations are now providing adequate facilities for broadcasts relating to the affairs of the districts in which they are located. It is regrettable that in some districts in which stations have been willing to keep the public informed of items of civic interest, the sessions formerly devoted to these topics have been discontinued, mainly because of the apathy of the local government authorities. A commercial station situated in a comparatively isolated area sought permission during the year to relay some of the school broadcasts provided by the Australian Broadcasting Commission. The request was referred to the Commission, which was unable to agree as it considered that the service provided in the district concerned by the national medium wave and short wave stations was satisfactory.

## NEWS BROADCASTS.

121. In paragraph 134 of the Board's Fourth Annual Report, details were given of a plan which had been approved by the Minister, in accordance with which news services may be relayed to all commercial broadcasting stations for the same landline charge, irrespective of the location of the station. The plan, which provides for a charge of £52 per annum for three news relays (in the morning, at mid-day and in the evening), came into operation on 1st August, 1952. It has conferred a great benefit on the Commercial Broadcasting Service and in addition to reducing annual charges for relay lines by £35,900 it has resulted in a great expansion in the news sessions of commercial stations, 76 of which are now providing a complete news service embracing at least two sessions daily of overseas, Australian, State and local news. Of the remaining stations, 28 have not been able to make satisfactory arrangements for the inclusion of local items in their news sessions but in many cases this deficiency can be attributed to lack of co-operation from newspaper interests in the districts concerned. The news service of only one station is now considered to be quite inadequate.

## BROADCASTING OF OBJECTIONABLE MATTER.

122. Whilst there was no serious breach during the past year of the provisions of section 91 of the Act which prohibits the broadcasting of any matter which is blasphemous, indecent or obscene, the Board regrets to report a resurgence of the tendency, to which it invited attention in its Fourth Annual Report, towards the inclusion in some programmes of items of a vulgar or suggestive character. Just after the close of the year to which this report relates, there was disturbing evidence, based on official observations of programmes, concerning the intrusion of vulgar and suggestive matter into certain sessions, particularly audience participation programmes. In addition to taking this matter up with the stations concerned, the Board also brought it to the notice of the Australian Federation of Commercial Broadcasting Stations, which after expressing general agreement with the views of the Board as to the desirability of completely eliminating offensive matter from programmes, communicated with all the members of the Federation urging them to give personal attention to their grave responsibility. The Board has also reminded each licensee that the provisions of the Act relating to the broadcasting of programmes clearly place the responsibility for the observance of the general standards of acceptability of any programme on the licensee of the station by which it is broadcast, and that special steps should be taken by the licensee to satisfy himself as to the suitability of all programme

matter which originates at some place other than his own studios. The matter was still under consideration at the time this report was being written, but it appeared from regular observations of sessions which had previously been open to criticism that the steps already taken had produced satisfactory results.

## ENCOURAGEMENT OF "LOCAL TALENT".

123. Section 88 of the Act reads—

(1.) The Commission and the licensee of each commercial broadcasting station shall, as far as possible, give encouragement to the development of local talent and endeavour to obviate restriction of the utilization of the services of persons who, in their opinion, are competent to make useful contributions to broadcasting programmes

(2.) Not less than two and one-half per centum of the total time occupied by the National Broadcasting Service and not less than two and one-half per centum of the total time occupied by any commercial broadcasting station in the broadcasting of music shall be devoted to the broadcasting of works of Australian composers, produced either on sound records made in Australia or by artists actually present in the studio of the broadcasting station concerned.

In its Fourth Annual Report, the Board expressed the opinion that whilst the Australian Broadcasting Commission is discharging its general obligation to give encouragement to local talent, the licensees of many commercial broadcasting stations have made little effort to do so. The Board has had discussions with the Liaison Committee of the Australian Federation of Commercial Broadcasting Stations concerning this matter, and has also made some further investigations in this field because of representations made by the Musicians Unions, Actors' and Announcers' Equity Association and other organizations, which amongst other things suggested that a total prohibition should be placed on the use of imported transcriptions by broadcasting stations in order that greater opportunities might be provided for Australian musicians and artists. It is clear, however, that such drastic action could not be justified by the small proportion of the total programme time of national and commercial stations which is devoted to imported transcriptions. The report of the Australian Broadcasting Commission for 1951-52 showed that the ratio of live performances to recorded matter during the year was approximately 53 : 47. Imported transcriptions occupied only 5.7 per cent. of all the programme time of stations 2FC and 2BL, which for this purpose may be regarded as typical of the whole National Broadcasting Service. Comparable figures are not available for the Commercial Broadcasting Service, but from a survey made by the Board recently, covering a period of four weeks, it was ascertained that 4.8 per cent. of the total programme time of commercial stations in the capital cities was occupied by live-artist performances, 10.45 per cent. by Australian transcriptions made by Australian artists, and only 1.4 per cent. by imported transcriptions employing other than Australian artists.

124. Apart from the fact that these figures indicate that only a small proportion of the programme time of Australian broadcasting stations is devoted to imported transcriptions, the Board considers that the use of some overseas material is desirable to provide standards of comparison and achievement as between Australia and other countries, and to keep the broadcasters and the public informed of standards of broadcasting throughout the world. Moreover, Australian productions are being sold to New Zealand, South Africa, Ceylon, Canada, and to a lesser extent in the United States of America, and the exclusion from Australian broadcasting of transcribed programmes from overseas might lose the Australian industry the goodwill it now has in those countries. This would in the long run be injurious both to Australian artists and

writers. Although for these reasons the Board considers that prohibition of the importation of programmes would be undesirable, it feels that the figures quoted above support its contention that the licensees of many commercial stations could do more to encourage Australian artists. The Australian Federation of Commercial Broadcasting Stations claims that commercial broadcasting has done a great deal to provide opportunities for Australian artists, and the Board considers that this claim is indisputable. The fact, however, remains that the percentage of time devoted to the National Service to live-artist performances and Australian-made transcriptions is very much greater than in the Commercial Service.

125. The Australian Broadcasting Commission and licensees of commercial broadcasting stations are adequately observing the requirements of section 88 (2.) of the Act as will be seen from the following table which shows the percentage of time occupied in the broadcasting of music which is devoted to the broadcasting of Australian compositions:—

Australian Broadcasting Commission.			Commercial Stations.	
Period.	Average percentage of all metropolitan stations.	Average percentage of all commercial stations.	Number of stations below 2.5 per cent.	
	Per cent.	Per cent.		
1949-50 .. .. .	3.75	4.08		7
1950-51 .. .. .	4.08	4.11	12	
1951-52 .. .. .	4.37	4.06	8	
1952-53 .. .. .	4.23	4.21	7	

A brief examination of the type of Australian music which is being broadcast, particularly by those stations which recorded high percentages, suggests that the original purpose of section 88 (2.) is not being achieved because by far the greater number of items played are of the "hill-billy" type. Frequent complaints have been made concerning the relatively small number of tuneful and pleasing items of Australian music which are available in recorded form. It has also been observed that many stations, while continuing to programme Australian music in isolated blocks of time sufficient to meet the quota, are also introducing Australian items into general programmes. This is to be commended, for the Board is of the opinion that Australian music should achieve popularity on its own merits and that it should therefore be given the opportunity to compete with other music in general programmes.

126. The provisions of section 88 (2.) have, no doubt, conferred some benefits on Australian composers but the view has been put by the Musicians' Union that as most stations use recordings of Australian compositions, the musicians themselves do not benefit to any great extent. The obligation on the broadcasters to give encouragement to the development of local talent applies to musicians as well as to artists and in view of the extensive use which is made of recordings by broadcasting stations, it seems most desirable that Australian musicians should be given more opportunities to produce recordings both of Australian and overseas compositions. With this object in mind, the Board recently convened a meeting of the principal record manufacturing companies and urged that they should, in the national interest, endeavour to increase their output of recordings by Australian musicians. The Board is glad to report a satisfactory response from the recording companies which have formed a committee to consider the suggestions made by the Board and the means by which the desired end may be achieved.

#### CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMES.

127. Much anxiety has been expressed on various occasions since the introduction of broadcasting into the Commonwealth concerning the effect of certain types of programmes on children. A conference in 1945, which was convened by the Postmaster-General, suggested a set of principles to govern the general nature of children's programmes. These were sent to all stations by the Postmaster-General's Department as a guide to them in the construction of children's sessions and they were adopted by the Australian Federation of Commercial Broadcasting Stations as part of its "code". When issuing them to its members, the Federation exhorted them to exercise meticulous supervision over all programmes or sessions designed for child listeners and also over programmes broadcast during early evening sessions when children are likely to be listening. The principles, which are contained in Appendix D, were adopted by the Board in 1949 as a basis for determining the suitability of children's programmes and have not since been varied.

128. Complaints have been received by the Board from time to time concerning the harmful effect on children of certain programmes which are not necessarily included in children's sessions, and while each complaint has been investigated with the station concerned, the Board has also raised the general question with the Federation for examination in accordance with its own standards. It is evident that certain types of programme, in which thrills, suspense and "horror" features are prominently featured, are unsuitable for children, although they are very popular with many adult listeners. The Board has, as a general rule, suggested to stations that their schedules should be arranged so as to avoid the transmission of such items before 8.30 p.m.

129. It should be pointed out, however, that the findings of the School of Education of the University of Melbourne, from a survey made in 1951, are not such as to encourage the feeling that the general adoption of any such rule as has just been indicated would be a solution of the problem which is exercising the minds of those who have recently made representations to the Board. In that survey it was disclosed that direct parental control was exercised over the listening habits of only 24 per cent. of twelve-year-olds, and that there was a decline in the extent of parental control of the listening habits of children as their ages increased, with the result that only 9 per cent. of the parents of sixteen-year-old children attempt to control their listening. The same survey indicated that serials (which may be taken to include most "thrillers") rank high in popularity among children of twelve and thirteen, and that plays rank high at all ages from twelve to sixteen. The usefulness of a time-limit such as 8.30 p.m. becomes somewhat doubtful in the light of another finding, that 92 per cent. of children aged twelve are allowed to delay their normal bed-time (8.40 p.m. average) to hear special broadcasts. Other investigations suggest that 51 per cent. of all children are permitted to listen to broadcast programmes at any time. Many of the complaints which have been received by the Board suggest that stricter control over the use of radio receivers by children is desirable. It will be appreciated that the Board cannot accept the impossible task of exercising that type of control over listening which properly is an individual parental responsibility.

#### PROGRAMMES FOR ADOLESCENTS.

130. During the year some attention was paid to the programmes in which adolescents take part, the majority of which include the words "rumpus" or

"teenage" in their titles. The Board has been concerned from time to time by reports of the conduct of some of these sessions. However, after observing several of these programmes over a period the Board has formed the opinion that for the most part they are conducted satisfactorily, though at times various compères have displayed a coarseness of manner which is not a good example to the younger generation. Audience measurement surveys indicate that these programmes attract between 20 and 25 per cent. of the available audience. Having regard to the alternative programmes which are available at the same time, the audience for the "teenage" programmes appears to be disproportionately large, a fact which imposes on those in charge of these programmes a correspondingly greater responsibility towards their young and impressionable listeners.

#### REVISION OF EXISTING INSTRUCTIONS TO LICENSEES OF COMMERCIAL BROADCASTING STATIONS.

131. Prior to the establishment of the Board, instructions were issued by the Postmaster-General's Department for the guidance of broadcasters in relation to various aspects of programmes. These were adopted by the Board in 1949 but the Board has deemed it desirable to review some of them and, after conferring with the Australian Federation of Commercial Broadcasting Stations, recently revised, and re-issued, the instructions relating to broadcasts of sporting events and lotteries, the broadcasting of telephone conversations, time signals and time announcements, in the following terms:—

*Broadcasts relating to Sporting Events.*—The following rules should be observed in relation to broadcasts of sporting events:—

- (a) information concerning betting or betting odds, including totalisator dividends, in respect of any race meeting (including a trotting meeting) should not be broadcast prior to the conclusion of the last event on the programme of that meeting;
- (b) advertisements soliciting business concerning forecasts of results of sporting events should not be broadcast. This rule does not prevent broadcasts containing forecasts and summaries of sporting events.

All State or local laws concerning descriptions of, or the publication of information relating to, sporting events should also be observed.

*Lotteries.*—Direct or indirect advertisements relating to lotteries, or any information concerning them, should not be broadcast, except from a station which is situated within a State in which a lottery is permitted by the law of that State, and then only in respect of that lottery.

*Broadcasting of Telephone Conversations.*—The privacy of telephone conversations is protected by the Telephone Regulations, and such conversations, whether on wire or radio circuits or both, may not be broadcast unless, in special circumstances, permission has been granted by the Board in consultation with the Post Office.

*Time Signals and Time Announcements.*—At a conference between representatives of the Department of Air, Department of Civil Aviation, the Post Office, the Australian Federation of Commercial Broadcasting

Stations, and the Australian Broadcasting Commission, held in 1948, it was agreed *inter alia* that—

- (a) no station would radiate synthetic time signals of a character which might lead to their being mistaken for standard time signals of the type transmitted by observatories throughout the Commonwealth;
- (b) national and commercial stations would eliminate from recorded programmes, time signals which might happen to be superimposed thereon and which might be radiated at other than the correct time.

It is the Board's view that, as part of a station's general programme service, periodical announcements of the correct local time should be made. The following procedure is recommended:—

- (i) the correct time should be announced not less frequently than once in each 30-minute period, provided that a programme exceeding 30 minutes in duration may be completed without such interruption;
- (ii) the correct time should be announced at the opening and closing of each transmission, and preceding each regular service programme, such as news bulletins. Observatory time signals and public clock chimes may be broadcast at the discretion of a station, provided that such time signals should not be broadcast except on the hour, Eastern Standard Time or Western Australian Time. Stations situated in territory in which South Australian Time is used should broadcast observatory time signals only at the equivalent of the hour, E.S.T., namely 30 minutes past the hour, S.A.T.;
- (iii) the established practice of making frequent announcement of the time during early morning sessions is commendable, but is left to the discretion of individual stations.

#### STANDARD OF ANNOUNCING.

132. The Board has also sent the following circular to the licensees of stations concerning the desirability of maintaining a high standard of announcing:—

The correct use of English by those engaged in any field of mass communication is much to be desired and, in the opinion of the Board, broadcasters have a special responsibility to encourage the correct use of the spoken word by the avoidance, in their broadcasts, of slang, wrong pronunciation and bad grammar in routine announcements, in advertising and in entertainment matter.

The Board appreciates, of course, that some latitude must be allowed at times when it is necessary to depart from the accepted forms for the purpose of plot or character development, but in any such case, colloquialism or deliberate errors should be so treated that their nature is clearly indicated by the context. Particular care in this respect is necessary in the presentation of programmes broadcast at times when children may reasonably be expected to be listening, in order that there may be no real substance for the charge which is sometimes made that the good work of teachers in the schools is to some extent vitiated by certain sessions which are broadcast.

Our observations have led us to the conclusion that the work of the great majority of announcers employed at commercial stations is satisfactory. Nevertheless, the Board suggests that you might see fit to remind the members of your staff who are engaged on announcing duties, and all artists employed by you, of your anxiety to maintain a consistently high standard in regard to the correct use of English.

## OBSERVATION OF PROGRAMMES.

133. Observations of programmes have been carried out by the Board's State Representatives as well as by officers of the Board's own staff. Special consideration has been given to certain aspects which have been the subject of attention by the Board (for example, advertising on Sundays, duration and frequency of advertisements, broadcasts in foreign languages and suitability of programme matter), as well as to the quality of service being provided by the stations. The observations, which were generally informative and did not reveal any serious breaches of the Act, extended over more than 10,000 hours.

## COLOMBO PLAN—TRAINING IN BROADCASTING PRACTICE.

134. During the year the Assistant Director of Radio Ceylon (Commercial Service), Mr. T. N. Horshington, visited Australia under the Colombo Plan to make a study of the business aspects of commercial broadcasting. The Board was pleased to offer guidance in the planning of this study, which, as arranged in conjunction with the Department of Labour and National Service, included detailed examination of all phases of broadcasting management and operation, both in respect of network and independent commercial stations. Mr. Horshington was also able to gain experience in the operation of the National Broadcasting Service, and of advertising agencies.

## PART V.—GENERAL.

## FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS OF THE BOARD.

135. In conformity with the provisions of section 6r of the Act, a statement of the financial accounts of the Board for the year ended 30th June, 1953, together with the report of the Auditor-General as to those accounts, appears in Appendix E of this report.

136. The following table shows the progressive development in the number of broadcasting stations and

licensed listeners since the inception of broadcasting in 1923:—

Year.	Number of broadcasting stations in operation.		Number of licensed listeners.
	Class "A"	Class "B"	
30th June, 1924	4	..	1,206
1925	7	6	63,874
1926	8	9	128,060
1927	8	12	225,240
1928	8	12	270,507
1929	8	12	301,199
	National	Commercial	
1930	8	13	312,192
1931	9	27	331,969
1932	12	43	369,945
1933	12	48	469,477
1934	12	53	599,159
1935	12	57	721,852
1936	14	73	825,136
1937	20	80	940,068
1938	24	94	1,057,911
1939	24	98	1,131,861
1940	26	100	1,212,581
1941	27	96	1,293,266
1942	27	97	1,320,073
1943	27	96	1,370,000
1944	28	98	1,394,880
1945	29	100	1,415,229
1946	29	100	1,436,789
1947	32	101	1,678,276
1948	33	102	1,703,970
1949	37	102	1,762,675
1950	39	102	1,841,211
1951	41	103	1,884,834
1952	42	103	1,961,044
1953	44	105	1,985,655

In addition to the above national stations there were, as at 30th June, 1953, nine short-wave transmitters providing services to listeners in remote areas.

## LISTENERS' LICENCES.

137. The following table shows the various classes of broadcast listeners' licences which were current on 30th June, 1953:—

Class of licence.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Commonwealth.
Ordinary	686,261	504,374	262,196	199,424	134,602	65,458	1,852,315
Pensioners	52,804	26,936	18,890	11,670	9,939	4,878	125,117
Blind persons	830	658	291	309	365	201	2,654
Schools	2,107	1,361	961	701	235	204	5,569
Total	742,002	533,329	282,338	212,104	145,141	70,741	1,985,655
Ratio to 100 of population	21.51	22.63	22.63	27.64	23.62	22.39	22.69

## COST OF NATIONAL BROADCASTING SERVICE.

138. Because the amount of fees paid by listeners had for some years previously been insufficient to meet the expenditure incurred on the National Broadcasting Service, the *Broadcasting Act 1942-1950* was amended in 1951 for the purpose of increasing the annual fee for a broadcast listeners' licence from £1 to £2 in Zone 1 (i.e., the area within approximately 250 miles of a national broadcasting station) and from 14s. to 28s. for listeners in the remainder of the Commonwealth. As a result of this increase, which operated as from 1st January, 1952, revenue from listeners' licence-fees amounted to £3,770,313 during the past year, compared with £1,955,055 during the year ended 30th June, 1951, which was the last full year during which the lower fees were charged.

The substantial rise in revenue from licence-fees has not proved sufficient to meet the expenditure of the National Broadcasting Service, which continues to

increase as the result of the expansion of the service and the general rise in the cost of labour and material.

139. Expenditure on the operation of the National Broadcasting Service (i.e. programme and technical services) during 1952-53, was £4,499,879, this amount being made up as follows:—

	£
Australian Broadcasting Commission	2,496,690
Technical and other services	1,988,336
Audit of accounts	2,000
Repairs and maintenance of buildings	12,853
	4,499,879

The gross expenditure of the Australian Broadcasting Commission was £2,887,524, but revenue of £390,834 was derived from public concerts, subsidies for the symphony orchestras, the *A.B.C. Weekly*, the sale of news services and miscellaneous sources. The total cash

revenue received, excluding that derived by the Australian Broadcasting Commission, was £3,805,285, viz. :—

	£
Broadcast listeners' licence-fees .. ..	3,770,313
Broadcasting stations' licence-fees .. ..	22,516
Miscellaneous .. ..	12,456
	<u>3,805,285</u>

The expenditure on Broadcasting Capital Works was £239,634, of which £37,764 was provided from Australian Broadcasting Commission reserves.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

140. In the course of its discharge of its functions, the Board and its officers are brought into almost daily contact with the Postmaster-General's Department, the

Australian Broadcasting Commission and the Australian Federation of Commercial Broadcasting Stations, each of which plays a major part in the provision of the Australian broadcasting services. The Board gratefully acknowledges the co-operation it has received from each of these organizations, and especially the valuable work which has been done on behalf of the Board in the various States by officers of the Postmaster-General's Department, with the authority, always readily forthcoming, of the Director-General (Mr. G. T. Chippindall, C.B.E.).

R. G. OSBORNE, Chairman.

R. B. MAIR, Member.

RAY ALLSOP, Member.

J. O'KELLY, Secretary.

30th October, 1953.

## APPENDIX A.

COMMERCIAL BROADCASTING STATIONS IN OPERATION ON 30TH JUNE, 1953.

Call sign.	Location of station.	Licensee.	Frequency (kc/s).	Wave-length (m.).	Operating power.†	Hours of service per week (to nearest quarter hour).	C
					Watts.		
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY.							
2CA ..	Canberra ..	Canberra Broadcasters Ltd., Mort-street, Braddon, Canberra ..	1,050	286	2,000	119	3T
NEW SOUTH WALES.							
<i>Metropolitan.</i>							
2CH ..	Sydney ..	New South Wales Council of Churches Service, St. Andrew's Cathedral, George-street, Sydney	1,170	256	1,000	115	3Y
2GB ..	Sydney ..	Broadcasting Station 2GB Pty. Ltd., 133-133 Phillip-street, Sydney	870	345	1,000	121	
2KY ..	Sydney ..	The Trustees, R. H. Erskine and J. N. Thom, and the Secretary, R. A. King, of the Labor Council of New South Wales, Trades Hall, Goulburn-street, Sydney	1,020	294	1,000	119	4B
2SM ..	Sydney ..	Broadcasting Station 2SM Pty. Ltd., 60 Hunter-street, Sydney ..	1,270	236	1,000	118	4E
2UE ..	Sydney ..	Radio 2UE Sydney Pty. Ltd., 29 Bligh-street, Sydney ..	950	316	1,000	121½	4E
2UW ..	Sydney ..	Commonwealth Broadcasting Corporation Pty. Ltd., 49 Market-street, Sydney	1,110	270	1,000	168	4E 4K
<i>Country.</i>							
2AD ..	Armidale ..	New England Broadcasters, 113 Faulkner-street, Armidale ..	1,130	265	200	92½	
2AY ..	Albury ..	Amalgamated Wireless (A/asia.) Ltd., 47 York-street, Sydney ..	1,490	201	2,000	117	
2BE ..	Bega ..	J. A. Kerr, Belmore-street, Bega ..	1,480	203	500	74½	4A
2BH ..	Broken Hill ..	Radio Silver City Pty. Ltd., enr. Blende and Sulphide streets, Broken Hill	660	455	200	100	4A 4E
2BS ..	Bathurst ..	Bathurst Broadcasters Pty. Ltd., 109 George-street, Bathurst ..	1,500	200	1,000*	116½	4E
2CK ..	Cessnock ..	Coalfields Broadcasting Co. Pty. Ltd., Vincent-street, Cessnock	1,460	205	300	80½	
2DU ..	Dubbo ..	Western Broadcasters Pty. Ltd., 71 Macquarie-street, Dubbo ..	1,250	240	2,000	168	4C
2GF ..	Grafton ..	Grafton Broadcasting Co. Pty. Ltd., 47 York-street, Sydney ..	1,210	248	1,000	113½	4G
2GN ..	Goulburn ..	Goulburn Broadcasting Co. Pty. Ltd., 47 York-street, Sydney ..	1,380	217	1,000	114	4G
2GZ ..	Orange ..	Country Broadcasting Services Ltd., Hosking House, Hosking-place, 84½ Pitt-street, Sydney	990	303	2,000	117	
2HD ..	Newcastle ..	Airsales Broadcasting Co. Pty. Ltd., Maitland-road, Sandgate ..	1,140	263	500	125½	4I
2HR ..	Lochinvar ..	Hunter River Broadcasters Pty. Ltd., High-street, West Maitland	680	441	300	110½	4I
2KA ..	Katoomba ..	2KA Ltd., 77 King-street, Sydney ..	780	385	1,000*	114	4M
2KM ..	Kempsey ..	Radio Kempsey Ltd., 4th Floor, Stanway House, 77 King-street, Sydney	980	306	1,000*	104½	4M
2KO ..	Newcastle ..	Newcastle Broadcasting Co. Pty. Ltd., C.M.L. Building, 72 Hunter-street, Newcastle	1,410	213	500	168	4F
2LF ..	Young ..	Young Broadcasters Pty. Ltd., A.M.P. Buildings, Lynd-street, Young	1,340	224	2,000	115½	4S
2LM ..	Lismore ..	Richmond River Broadcasters Pty. Ltd., Northern Star Building, Molesworth-street, Lismore	900	333	1,000*	112	4T 4V
2LT ..	Lithgow ..	Lithgow Broadcasters Pty. Ltd., Great Western Highway, Lithgow	1,370	219	500	113	4V
2MG ..	Mudgee ..	Mudgee Broadcasting Co. Pty. Ltd., Wellington-road, Mudgee ..	1,450	207	100	104	4V
2MO ..	Gunnedah ..	2MO Gunnedah Ltd., 59 Marquis-street, Gunnedah ..	1,089	278	1,000	79	4Z
2MW ..	Murwillumbah ..	Tweed Radio and Broadcasting Co. Pty. Ltd., 19 Church-lane, Murwillumbah	1,470	204	1,000*	103	
2NZ ..	Inverell ..	Northern Broadcasters Pty. Ltd., Hosking House, Hosking-place, 84½ Pitt-street, Sydney ..	1,199	252	2,000	114	
2PK ..	Parkes ..	Parkes Broadcasting Co. Pty. Ltd., 307 Clarinda-street, Parkes ..	1,400	214	500	113	5A
2QN ..	Deniliquin ..	Regent Broadcasting Co., Regent Theatre, McCallum-street, Swan Hill, Victoria	1,520	197	2,000	72½	5I
2RE ..	Taree ..	Manning Valley Broadcasting Pty. Ltd., Taree ..	1,560	192	500	110½	5K
2RG ..	Griffith ..	Irrigation Area Newspapers Pty. Ltd., Ulong-street, Griffith ..	1,070	280	200	76½	
2TM ..	Tamworth ..	Tamworth Radio Development Co. Ltd., Peel-street, Tamworth	1,300	231	2,000	116½	
2WG ..	Wagga ..	Riverina Broadcasting Co., 16 Fitzmaurice-street, Wagga ..	1,150	261	2,000	108½	5A
2WL ..	Wollongong ..	Wollongong Broadcasting Pty. Ltd., Edward-street, Wollongong	1,430	210	2,000	119	5M
2XL ..	Cooma ..	Cooma Broadcasters Pty. Ltd., 134 Sharp-street, Cooma ..	920	326	1,000	99½	5F
VICTORIA.							
<i>Metropolitan.</i>							
3AK ..	Melbourne ..	Melbourne Broadcasters Pty. Ltd., 17 Grey-street, St. Kilda ..	1,500	200	500	54	5F
3AW ..	Melbourne ..	3AW Broadcasting Co. Pty. Ltd., 382 Latrobe-street, Melbourne, C.I.	1,280	234	600	121	5S
3DB ..	Melbourne ..	Herald and Weekly Times Ltd., 44-74 Flinders-street, Melbourne, C.I.	1,030	291	600	120½	
3KZ ..	Melbourne ..	Industrial Printing and Publicity Co., Ltd., 24-30 Victoria-street, Carlton, N.S.	1,180	254	600	121	6I 6F
3UZ ..	Melbourne ..	Nilsen's Broadcasting Service Pty. Ltd., 45-47 Bourke-street, Melbourne, C.I.	930	323	600	121	6F
3XY ..	Melbourne ..	Station 3XY Pty. Ltd., Charter House, 4 Bank-place, Melbourne, C.I.	1,420	211	600	121	6F
<i>Country.</i>							
3BA ..	Ballarat ..	Ballarat Broadcasters Pty. Ltd., 56 Lydiard-street, Ballarat ..	1,320	227	1,000	115½	6A
3BO ..	Bendigo ..	Amalgamated Wireless (A/asia.) Ltd., 47 York-street, Sydney ..	930	313	1,000	117½	
3CS ..	Colac ..	Colac Broadcasting Co. Pty. Ltd., 241 Murray-street, Colac ..	1,130	265	1,000	104½	
3CV ..	Maryborough ..	Central Victoria Broadcasters Pty. Ltd., 29 Pall Mall, Bendigo	1,470	204	1,000	107	6I
3GL ..	Geelong ..	Geelong Broadcasters Pty. Ltd., Little Malop-street, Geelong ..	1,350	222	1,000	117	6C
3HA ..	Hamilton ..	Western Province Radio Pty. Ltd., 239 Collins-street, Melbourne, C.I.	1,000	300	2,000	113½	6C
3LK ..	Lubeck ..	Herald and Weekly Times Ltd., 44-74 Flinders-street, Melbourne, C.I.	1,090	275	2,000	120½	6F
3MA ..	Mildura ..	Sunraysa Broadcasters Pty. Ltd., 22 Deakin Avenue, Mildura ..	1,360	221	200	106½	6M
3SH ..	Swan Hill ..	Swan Hill Broadcasting Co. Pty. Ltd., Campbell-street, Swan Hill	1,330	226	1,000	110½	6N
3SR ..	Shepparton ..	The Argus Broadcasting Services Pty. Ltd., 365 Elizabeth-street, Melbourne, C.I.	1,260	238	2,000	117	6T 6V

\* Power during day-time—2,000 watts.

† Power of certain stations to be increased in accordance with Board's determination—see Appendix "C".

## COMMERCIAL BROADCASTING STATIONS IN OPERATION ON 30TH JUNE, 1953—continued.

Call sign.	Location of station.	Licensee.	Frequency (kc/s).	Wave-length (m.).	Operating power. †	Hours of service per week (to nearest quarter hour).
					Watts.	
VICTORIA—continued.						
Country—continued.						
19	3TR .. Sale ..	Broadcast Entertainments Pty. Ltd., "The Age", Chambers, 239 Collins-street, Melbourne, C.I.	1,240	242	2,000	113
	3UL .. Warragul ..	The Argus Broadcasting Services Pty. Ltd., 365 Elizabeth-street, Melbourne, C.I.	880	341	1,000	110½
15	3YB .. Warrnambool ..	The Argus Broadcasting Services Pty. Ltd., 365 Elizabeth-street, Melbourne, C.I.	1,210	248	1,000	110½
QUEENSLAND.						
Metropolitan.						
18	4BC .. Brisbane ..	Commonwealth Broadcasting Corporation (Qld.) Ltd., 5th Floor, T. & G. Buildings, 189-191 Queen-street, Brisbane	1,120	268	1,000	168
21½	4BH .. Brisbane ..	Broadcasters (Aust.) Pty. Ltd., enr. Albert and Charlotte streets, Brisbane	1,390	216	1,000	121
68	4BK .. Brisbane ..	Queensland Newspapers Pty. Ltd., 288-298 Queen-street, Brisbane	1,290	233	1,000	125½
	4KQ .. Brisbane ..	The Trustees, H. Boland and J. M. Schmella, of the Queensland Branch of the Australian Labor Party, Dunstan House, 236-238 Elizabeth-street, Brisbane	690	435	1,000	125
Country.						
92½	4AK .. Oakey ..	Queensland Newspapers Pty. Ltd., 288-298 Queen-street, Brisbane	1,220	246	2,000	125½
17	4AY .. Ayr ..	Ayr Broadcasters Pty. Ltd., Airdmillan-road, Ayr ..	960	313	1,000*	110½
74½	4BU .. Bundaberg ..	Bundaberg Broadcasters Pty. Ltd., 190 Bourbong-street, Bundaberg	1,330	226	1,000*	113½
16½	4CA .. Cairns ..	Amalgamated Wireless (A/asia.) Ltd., 47 York-street, Sydney ..	1,010	297	300	112½
80½	4GR .. Toowoomba ..	Gold Radio Service Pty. Ltd., 5th Floor, T. & G. Buildings, Queen-street, Brisbane	860	349	2,000	118½
68	4GY .. Gympie ..	Gympie Broadcasting Co. Ltd., Smithfield Chambers, Mary-street, Gympie	1,350	222	500	106
13½	4IP .. Ipswich ..	Ipswich Broadcasting Co. Pty. Ltd., 233 Brisbane-street, Ipswich	1,440	208	1,000	113½
14	4LG .. Longreach ..	E. B. Connor, Duck-street, Longreach ..	1,100	273	2,000	65
17	4MB .. Maryborough ..	Maryborough Broadcasting Co. Pty. Ltd., 5th Floor, T. & G. Buildings, Queen-street, Brisbane	1,010	297	1,000*	113½
25½	4MK .. Mackay ..	Mackay Broadcasting Service Pty. Ltd., 85 Sydney-street, Mackay	1,380	217	2,000	113½
10½	4RO .. Rockhampton ..	Rockhampton Broadcasting Co. Pty. Ltd., 5th Floor, T. & G. Buildings, Queen-street, Brisbane	1,000	300	200	110½
14	4SB .. Kingaroy ..	South Burnett Broadcasting Co. Ltd., Alford-street, Kingaroy ..	1,060	283	2,000	117½
103	4TO .. Townsville ..	Amalgamated Wireless (A/asia.) Ltd., 47 York-street, Sydney ..	780	385	500	113½
13	4VL .. Charleville ..	Charleville Broadcasting Co. Ltd., Alfred-street, Charleville ..	920	326	1,000	104
104	4WK .. Warwick ..	Warwick Broadcasting Co. Pty. Ltd., Glennie Hall, Albion-street, Warwick	880	341	100	84½
79	4ZR .. Roma ..	Maranoa Broadcasting Co. Ltd., McDowell-street, Roma ..	1,480	203	500	81
103						
SOUTH AUSTRALIA.						
Metropolitan.						
114	5AD .. Adelaide ..	Advertiser Newspapers Ltd., 121 King William-street, Adelaide	1,310	229	500	119
113	5DN .. Adelaide ..	Hume Broadcasters Ltd., C.M.L. Building, 41 King William-street, Adelaide	970	309	500	119
72½	5KA .. Adelaide ..	5KA Broadcasting Co. Ltd., 43 Franklin-street, Adelaide ..	1,200	250	500	168
Country.						
110½	5AU .. Port Augusta ..	Port Augusta Broadcasting Co. Ltd., 43 Franklin-street, Adelaide	1,400	214	500	119½
76½	5MU .. Murray Bridge ..	Murray Bridge Broadcasting Co. Ltd., 121 King William-street, Adelaide	1,460	205	200	119
116½	5PI .. Crystal Brook ..	Midlands Broadcasting Services Ltd., 121 King William-street, Adelaide	1,040	288	2,000	119
108½	5RM .. Renmark ..	River Murray Broadcasters Ltd., C.M.L. Building, 47 Waymouth-street, Adelaide	800	375	2,000	119½
119	5SE .. Mount Gambier ..	South-Eastern Broadcasting Co. Ltd., 121 King William-street, Adelaide	1,370	219	500	119
99½						
WESTERN AUSTRALIA.						
Metropolitan.						
120½	6IX .. Perth ..	W.A. Broadcasters Pty. Ltd., Lyric House, 223 Murray-street, Perth	1,240	242	500	109½
121	6KY .. Perth ..	The People's Printing and Publishing Co. of Western Australia Ltd., 17-19 James-street, Perth	1,320	227	500	118
121	6PM .. Perth ..	6PM Broadcasters Ltd., St. George's House, St. George's Terrace, Perth	1,130	265	500	111½
121	6PR .. Perth ..	Nicholson's Ltd., 86-90 Barrack-street, Perth ..	880	341	500	110
Country.						
115½	6AM .. Northam ..	6AM Broadcasters Ltd., St. George's House, St. George's Terrace, Perth	980	306	2,000	92
117½	6BY .. Bridgetown ..	W.A. Broadcasters' Pty. Ltd., Lyric House, 223 Murray-street, Perth	900	333	2,000	107
104½	6CI .. Collie ..	Nicholson's Ltd., 86-90 Barrack-street, Perth ..	1,340	224	2,000	87½
107	6GE .. Geraldton ..	Great Northern Broadcasters Ltd., E.S. & A. Bank Buildings, 145 Marine Terrace, Geraldton	1,010	297	2,000	68
117	6KG .. Kalgoorlie ..	Goldfields Broadcasters (1933) Ltd., St. George's House, St. George's Terrace, Perth	1,210	248	500	75½
113½	6MD .. Merredin ..	W.A. Broadcasters Pty. Ltd., Lyric House, Murray-street, Perth	1,100	273	2,000	82½
120½	6NA .. Narrogin ..	The People's Printing and Publishing Co. of Western Australia Ltd., 17-19 James-street, Perth	920	326	2,000	118
106½	6TZ .. Bunbury ..	Nicholson's Ltd., 86-90 Barrack-street, Perth ..	960	313	2,000	105½
110½	6WB .. Katanning ..	W.A. Broadcasters Pty. Ltd., Lyric House, 223 Murray-street, Perth	1,070	280	2,000	82½
117						

\* Power during day-time—2,000 watts.

† Power of certain stations to be increased in accordance with Board's determination—see Appendix "C".

COMMERCIAL BROADCASTING STATIONS IN OPERATION ON 30TH JUNE, 1953—continued.

Call sign.	Location of station.	Licensee.	Frequency (kc/s).	Wave-length (m.).	Operating power.†	Hours of service per week (to nearest quarter hour).
					Watts.	
TASMANIA.						
<i>Metropolitan.</i>						
7HO ..	Hobart ..	Commercial Broadcasters Pty. Ltd., A.M.P. Buildings, enr. Collins and Elizabeth streets, Hobart	860	349	2,000	117½
7HT ..	Hobart ..	Metropolitan Broadcasters Pty. Ltd., 141-143 Elizabeth-street, Hobart	1,080	278	2,000	117½
<i>Country.</i>						
7AD ..	Devonport ..	Northern Tasmania Broadcasters Pty. Ltd., 29 Paterson-street, Launceston	900	333	500	108½
7BU ..	Burnie ..	Burnie Broadcasting Service Pty. Ltd., 29 Paterson-street, Launceston	560	533	500	86
7DY ..	Derby ..	North-East Tasmanian Radio Broadcasters Pty. Ltd., 29 Paterson-street, Launceston	1,450	207	500	54¼
7EX ..	Launceston ..	7EX Pty. Ltd., 71 Paterson-street, Launceston	1,010	297	500	108½
7LA ..	Launceston ..	Findlay and Wills Broadcasters Pty. Ltd., 21 Paterson-street, Launceston	1,100	273	500	108½
7QT ..	Queenstown ..	West Coast Broadcasters Pty. Ltd., 21 Paterson-street, Launceston	680	441	300	73¼

† Power of certain stations to be increased in accordance with Board's determination—see Appendix "C".

APPENDIX B.

NATIONAL BROADCASTING STATIONS IN OPERATION ON 30TH JUNE, 1953.

Call sign.	Station.	Frequency (kc/s).	Wave-length (m.).	Aerial power (watts).	Hours of service per week (to nearest quarter hour).
MEDIUM WAVE SERVICES.					
<i>Australian Capital Territory.</i>					
2CY ..	Canberra Regional .. .. .	850	353	10,000	122½
2CN ..	Canberra .. .. .	1,540	195	2,000	112
<i>New South Wales.</i>					
<i>(Metropolitan.)</i>					
2BL ..	Sydney .. .. .	740	405	10,000	118½
2FC ..	Sydney .. .. .	610	492	10,000	116
<i>(Country.)</i>					
2CO ..	Riverina Regional (Corowa) .. .. .	670	448	7,500	122½
2CR ..	Central Regional (Cumnock) .. .. .	550	545	10,000	122½
2LG ..	Lithgow Regional .. .. .	1,570	191	200	122½
2NA ..	Hunter River Regional No. 2 (Newcastle) .. .. .	820	366	2,000	116
2NB ..	Broken Hill Regional .. .. .	760	395	1,000	123
2NC ..	Hunter River Regional (Newcastle) .. .. .	1,230	244	2,000	118½
2NR ..	Northern Rivers Regional (Grafton) .. .. .	700	429	10,000	122½
2NU ..	Northern Tablelands Regional (Manilla) .. .. .	650	462	10,000	122½
2TR ..	Manning River Regional (Taree) .. .. .	720	417	200	122½
<i>Victoria.</i>					
<i>(Metropolitan.)</i>					
3AR ..	Melbourne .. .. .	620	484	10,000	116
3LO ..	Melbourne .. .. .	770	390	10,000	118½
<i>(Country.)</i>					
3GI ..	Gippsland Regional (Sale) .. .. .	830	361	7,000	122½
3WV ..	Western Regional (Doon) .. .. .	580	517	10,000	122½
<i>Queensland.</i>					
<i>(Metropolitan.)</i>					
4QG ..	Brisbane .. .. .	790	380	10,000	116
4QR ..	Brisbane .. .. .	590	508	10,000	118½
<i>(Country.)</i>					
4AT ..	Atherton Regional .. .. .	680	441	500	122½
4GM ..	Gympie Regional .. .. .	1,540	195	200	122½
4QA ..	Mackay Regional .. .. .	720	417	2,000	122½
4QB ..	Wide Bay Regional (Pialba) .. .. .	910	330	2,000	122½
4QL ..	Longreach Regional .. .. .	540	556	200	122½
4QN ..	North Regional (Townsville) .. .. .	630	476	7,000	122½
4QS ..	Darling Downs Regional (Dalby) .. .. .	750	400	10,000	122½
4QY ..	Cairns Regional .. .. .	890	337	2,000	122½
4RK ..	Rockhampton Regional .. .. .	940	319	2,000	122½
4SO ..	South Coast Regional .. .. .	1,590	189	200	122½
<i>South Australia.</i>					
<i>(Metropolitan.)</i>					
5AN ..	Adelaide .. .. .	890	337	2,000	119
5CL ..	Adelaide .. .. .	730	411	5,000	117½
<i>(Country.)</i>					
5CK ..	North Regional (Crystal Brook) .. .. .	640	469	10,000	123
5LN ..	Port Lincoln Regional .. .. .	1,530	196	200	123

6V  
6V  
6G  
6G  
6W  
7Z  
7Z  
7N  
5A  
5D  
9P  
VL  
2AD  
2AY  
2BE  
2BS  
2DU  
2GF  
2GN  
2KA  
2KM  
2LF  
2LM  
2LT  
2MG  
2MO  
2MW  
2PK  
2QN  
2RG  
2WL  
2XL  
3AK  
3BA  
3BO  
3CS  
3CV  
3GL  
3HA  
3MA  
3SH  
3TR  
3UL  
3YB

## NATIONAL BROADCASTING STATIONS IN OPERATION ON 30TH JUNE, 1953—continued.

Call sign.	Station.	Frequency (kc/s).	Wave-length (m.).	Aerial power (watts).	Hours of service per week (to nearest quarter hour).
<i>Western Australia.</i>					
(Metropolitan.)					
6WF	Perth	690	435	5,000	116
6WN	Perth	810	370	6,000	118½
(Country.)					
6GF	Goldfields Regional (Kalgoorlie)	720	417	2,000	122½
6GN	Geraldton Regional	830	361	2,000	122½
6WA	South-West Regional (Wagin)	560	536	10,000	122½
<i>Tasmania.</i>					
(Metropolitan.)					
7ZL	Hobart	600	500	2,000	116
7ZR	Hobart	1,160	259	500	118½
(Country.)					
7NT	North Regional (Kelso)	710	423	7,000	122½
<i>Northern Territory.</i>					
5AL	Alice Springs Regional	1,530	196	50	123
5DR	Darwin Regional	1,500	200	200	123
<i>Papua.</i>					
9PA	Port Moresby	1,250	240	500	90¼
SHORT WAVE SERVICES.					
VLI	Sydney, New South Wales	The frequencies on which these stations transmit are varied as required to obtain optimum results		2,000	119
VLG	Lyndhurst, Victoria			10,000	53½*
VLH	Lyndhurst, Victoria			10,000	119
VLR	Lyndhurst, Victoria			5,000	116½
VLM	Brisbane, Queensland			10,000	122½
VLQ	Brisbane, Queensland			10,000	122½
VLX	Perth, Western Australia			10,000	119
VLW	Perth, Western Australia			2,000	119
VLT	Port Moresby, Papua			2,000	90¼
FREQUENCY MODULATION SERVICES (EXPERIMENTAL).					
..	Sydney, New South Wales	92.100 Mc/s.	..	2,000	..
..	Melbourne, Victoria	91.100 Mc/s.	..	2,000	..
..	Adelaide, South Australia	97.300 Mc/s.	..	250	..

\* Available only part-time for the National Broadcasting Service; also operates for Radio Australia.

APPENDIX C.  
COMMERCIAL BROADCASTING STATIONS.  
INCREASES IN OPERATING POWER DETERMINED BY THE BOARD.  
Position as at 30th June, 1953.

Call sign.	Location of station.	Power previously authorized (watts).	Power determined by Board (watts).	Call sign.	Location of station.	Power previously authorized (watts).	Power determined by Board (watts).
<i>New South Wales.</i>				<i>Queensland.</i>			
2AD	Armidale	200	1,000	4AY	Ayr	500	1,000*
2AY	Albury	200	2,000	4BU	Bundaberg	500	2,000
2BE	Bega	500	1,000	4CA	Cairns	300	1,000
2BS	Bathurst	200	1,000*	4GR	Toowoomba	500	2,000
2DU	Dubbo	200	2,000	4GY	Gympie	200	500*
2GF	Grafton	200	1,000	4IP	Ipswich	200	1,000
2GN	Goulburn	200	2,000	4LG	Longreach	1,000	2,000
2KA	Katoomba	1,000	1,000*	4MB	Maryborough	300	2,000
2KM	Kempsey	300	1,000*	4MK	Mackay	100	2,000
2LF	Young	300	2,000	4RO	Rockhampton	200	2,000
2LM	Lismore	500	1,000*	4TO	Townsville	200	1,000*
2LT	Lithgow	100	500	4VL	Charleville	500	1,000
2MG	Mudgee	100	500	4WK	Warwick	100	1,000
2MO	Gunnedah	100	1,000	4ZR	Roma	500	1,000
2MW	Murwillumbah	500	1,000*	<i>South Australia.</i>			
2PK	Parke	200	500	5AU	Port Augusta	200	500
2QN	Deniliquin	200	2,000	5SE	Mount Gambier	200	500
2RG	Griffith	200	1,000*	<i>Western Australia.</i>			
2WL	Wollongong	500	2,000	6CI	Collie	500	2,000
2XL	Cooma	500	1,000	6GE	Geraldton	500	2,000
<i>Victoria.</i>				6KG	Kalgoorlie	500	2,000
3AK	Melbourne	200	500	6MD	Merredin	500	2,000
3BA	Ballarat	500	1,000	<i>Tasmania.</i>			
3BO	Bendigo	500	1,000	7HO	Hobart	500	2,000
3CS	Colac	200	1,000	7HT	Hobart	500	2,000
3CV	Maryborough	500	1,000	7AD	Devonport	300	500
3GL	Geelong	500	1,000	7BU	Burnie	200	500
3HA	Hamilton	1,000	2,000	7DY	Derby	200	500
3MA	Mildura	200	2,000	7EX	Launceston	500	2,000
3SH	Swan Hill	200	2,000	7LA	Launceston	500	2,000
3TR	Sale	1,000	2,000	7QT	Queenstown	300	500†
3UL	Warragul	200	1,000				
3YB	Warrnambool	200	1,000				

\* Approved power during day 2,000 watts.

† Approved power during day 1,000 watts.

## APPENDIX D.

## PRINCIPLES TO GOVERN CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMES.

(Drawn up by conference in 1945—see paragraph 127.)

Because of the obligation of the broadcasting stations to their juvenile audience, it is necessary that meticulous supervision should be exercised over all programmes or sessions designed for child listeners, and also over programmes broadcast during early evening sessions when children are likely to be listening.

The customary standards of propriety governing programmes in general shall, of course, apply to children's sessions, but in particular the following standards are to be observed :—

- (1) All scripts for children's programmes must be carefully written having in mind the particular audience for which they are intended.
- (2) Children should be encouraged in the art of correct speech and pronunciation, and therefore slang and incorrect English should be discouraged.
- (3) All stories must reflect respect for law and order, adult authority, good morals and clean living.  
Where applicable, the hero or heroine and other sympathetic characters must be portrayed as intelligent and morally courageous. The theme must stress the importance of mutual respect of one man for another, and should emphasise the desirability of fair play and honorable behaviour. Cowardice, malice, deceit, selfishness and disrespect for law must be avoided in the delineation of any character presented in the light of a hero to the child listener.
- (4) Adventure stories may be accepted, subject to the following prohibitions :—  
No torture or suggestion of torture.  
No horror—present or impending.  
No use of the supernatural or of superstition likely to arouse fear.  
No profanity or vulgarity.  
In order that children will not be emotionally upset, no programme or episode shall end with an incident which will create in their minds morbid suspense or hysteria.  
Dramatic action should not be over-accentuated through gun play or through other methods of violence. To prevent the overstimulation of the child's imagination, sound effects intended to anticipate or simulate death or physical torture are not permitted.
- (5) The themes of stories broadcast in children's sessions should reflect fair play and considerate behaviour for one's fellow being. In particular, they should not undermine parental authority or the authority of teachers.
- (6) It is recommended that there shall be regular sessions designed to impart a knowledge of the history and potentialities of our country, a broader knowledge of current affairs and a love of culture, e.g. special sessions of the works of appropriate authors should be broadcast in order to encourage the habit of reading. It is further recommended that music which is included in children's sessions should be of such a nature as to help the cultural development of the children.
- (7) As distinct from the collective aspects of children's programmes it is suggested that sessions calculated to develop the tastes of individual children might be arranged, e.g., broadcasts devoted to particular hobbies.
- (8) Contests and offers which encourage children to enter strange places and to converse with strangers in an effort to collect box-tops or wrappers may present a definite element of danger to the children. Therefore such contests and offers are not acceptable.
- (9) No appeal should be made to the child to help characters in the story by sending in box-tops or wrappers; nor may any actors remain in character and, in the commercial copy, address the child urging him to purchase the product in order to keep the programme on the air, or make similar appeals.
- (10) Where radio clubs are formed they shall be carefully supervised in the matter of the behaviour of the children, the company which they keep and, in particular, in any club function, individual children should not be encouraged to "show off" in front of others.

APPENDIX E.  
AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING CONTROL BOARD.  
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1953.

<i>Receipts.</i>				<i>Payments.</i>			
<i>Previous Year.</i>		<i>30th June, 1953.</i>		<i>Previous Year.</i>		<i>30th June, 1953.</i>	
£		£		£		£	£
60,691	Parliamentary Appropriation .. .. .	56,391		44,994	Salaries and Wages—		
11	Miscellaneous Revenue .. .. .	11		1,696	Salaries .. .. .	43,240	
60,702		56,402		551	Temporary Assistance .. .. .	1,407	
					Extra Duty Pay .. .. .	469	45,116
				47,241			
				5,811	General Expenses—		
				1,907	Travelling and Subsistence .. .. .	3,381	
				4,037	Postages, Telephones, &c. .. .. .	1,109	
					Incidentals .. .. .	4,132	8,622
				11,755			
				1,454	Stores and Material—		
				252	Office Requisites .. .. .	1,435	
					Technical Equipment .. .. .	1,229	2,664
				1,706			
60,702		56,402		60,702			56,402

NOTE.—Adjusted to nearest £.

J. O'KELLY, Secretary.

R. G. OSBORNE, Chairman.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1953.

<i>30th June, 1952.</i>		<i>Description of Assets.</i>						<i>30th June, 1953.</i>		
£								£	£	£
Nil	Land and Buildings .. .. .									Nil
5,866	Office Furniture and Equipment—									
	At cost to 30th June, 1952 .. .. .									5,866
	Additions during year .. .. .									671
										6,537
1,189	Less—Depreciation .. .. .							1,596		
	Items written off .. .. .									1,596
4,677										4,941
	Library—									
1,020	At cost to 30th June, 1952 .. .. .									1,020
	Additions during year .. .. .									342
										1,362
168	Less—Depreciation .. .. .							288		
	Items written off .. .. .									288
852										1,074
	Technical Equipment—									
855	At cost to 30th June, 1952 .. .. .									855
	Additions during year .. .. .									1,229
										2,084
145	Less—Depreciation .. .. .							339		
	Items written off .. .. .									339
710										1,745
361	Office Stores and Material on hand .. .. .									343
6,600										8,103

J. O'KELLY, Secretary.

R. G. OSBORNE, Chairman.

The above statement has been examined and is in agreement with the books. In my opinion it exhibits a true and fair view of the assets of the Australian Broadcasting Control Board at 30th June, 1953.

J. BROPHY,  
Auditor-General for the Commonwealth.  
6th August, 1953.

