



Indigenous Broadcasting Program Review
DCITA
Canberra

Dear Sir/Madam,

We write to inform you that our organisation is in support of the AICA response to the Indigenous Broadcasting Program Review. We would also like to take this opportunity to inform you about our organisation and the role it plays not only within our community, but regionally and nationally.

The Broome Aboriginal Media Association, Goolarri Media is a multi-faceted organisation providing a full-time Indigenous Radio station 99.7fm; a full-time open narrowcast television service GTV35; a Production House producing television content ranging from short language stories to television series and documentaries; events management service managing festivals such as NAIDOC; music development assisting emerging and established Indigenous musicians in their careers; Information Technology service; Graphics and administration of the BRACS (RIMO) Coordination Unit for W.A. These services are also complimented by our Registered Training Organisation status delivering accredited training from Certificate II to Advanced Diploma in Broadcasting (Radio), Screen and in Events Management from Certificate II to Diploma level. We also deliver the Certificate III in Broadcasting (Remote Area Operations).

Goolarri also assists the Indigenous Media industry generally by playing an active role on various Boards and committees including AICA, NITV working group, NIRS, Indigenous Screen Australia, CBF Training Project Steering Committee, Australian International Documentary Conference and Screenwest. This commitment to and involvement by our organisation in both the Indigenous and mainstream sectors of media has provided us with an intimate understanding of the issues facing the media industry. It is with this collective knowledge and experience that we fully support the views expressed in the AICA response to this review.

Goolarri is extremely concerned about a number of issues raised in the DCITA review which have already been expressed in the AICA response, but one fundamental problem is the review's total disregard of the "whole of Government" approach towards Indigenous affairs and programs. This deficiency was very much reflected in the review's failure to address the changes in the Community Development Employment Program and the massive consequences that will flow onto our Indigenous Media industry. It appears that DCITA either has no understanding or is simply

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PO Box 2708, Broome, 6725, PH: (08) 9192 1325, FAX: (08) 9193 6407, ACN: 074 817 253

ignoring the fact that this Industry is heavily supported by the CDEP and the changes that will occur on the 1st July will result in many Indigenous workers being forced to move to other employment.

So in the 2006/07 financial year not only does Goolarri have a funding cut from DCITA for its radio station by \$35,932, the organisation will also have to contend with employees who have worked for many long hard years on CDEP and top salary being forced to find employment elsewhere, no doubt in a totally different industry. Goolarri, like many other Indigenous Media organisations, has a massive struggle on its hands and it is with trepidation that we look to the future as some of our peer organisations may even fail and be forced to close their doors.

DCITA needs to use the opportunity of the Review to ensure that our Indigenous Media industry not only survives but grows to meet the needs of both the Indigenous and non-Indigenous community. It is an industry that tells Indigenous Australia's stories and is a significant part of the wider media landscape of this country. Ensuring the ongoing viability of Indigenous media will ensure that there is cultural diversity expressed and a greater understanding and awareness of the issues and lives of Australia's first peoples, both historically and into the future.

Yours faithfully,



Dot West
Director
Head of Productions

30th June, 2006

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