

PRINT HANDICAPPED RADIO OF ACT INCORPORATED

Policy

Programming

Approved 2 October 2017

Policy – Programming

Background

1RPH is a dedicated RPH Station, as defined by the *Broadcasting Service Act* (1992). The RPH Australia *Protocols for Broadcasting* (October 2016) set out the programming guidelines for RPH stations including content of programs, the timing for RPH programs to be broadcast and the way in which the content is to be presented.

Radio for the Print Handicapped provides a unique broadcast service that meets the needs of people with a 'print disability'; people who through age, disability or lack of literacy skills are unable to effectively access printed material. On the basis of equity, people with a print disability have the same right to access to printed information as other members of the Australian community.

Purpose

This policy sets out the arrangements for the content and timing of broadcast for the programs that fall within the RPH protocols as well as those outside of the protocols. It does not include the content of sponsored programs although it does include the time that these programs are put to air.

Policy

In accordance with the RPH protocol, 'RPH' programming comprises:

- reading of news and feature articles from daily, and other general circulation newspapers
- subject based programs that feature readings in an identified topic area - from newspapers, magazines, and other publications
- serialised book readings
- interviews, presentations and other features that relate to subjects that are of particular relevance to an audience with a print disability.

For programming/broadcasting to be considered "RPH", the following criteria must be adhered to:

- the 'Core RPH Programming Period' is a 16-hour period between the hours of 6.00 a.m. and midnight. At least 75% of material broadcast during the core period will comprise defined RPH material considered across an average weekly broadcasting period.
- all printed items used will be read in full. Material will be presented with appropriate identification of the publication, edition, date of publication, page number, and author's name. In no circumstances shall the text be varied, or any editorial comment be offered in relation to an item.
- all published items used will be read in full and that in no circumstance shall the text be varied.
- the requirement that a published item is read in full and that the text is not varied is not infringed where a reader finds it necessary to vary the text of the item to deal with obvious printing or grammatical errors or the reader is

compelled to abbreviate an article when reading up to the end time of a program or program segment

- readers are expected use judgement and common sense and consideration for the listeners who are dependent on them for access to the information they are providing.

New programs

1RPH program makers and broadcasters are to engage in a process of ongoing consultation, in relation to programming with:

- print-disabled listeners to the service
- organisations of people with a print disability
- organisations that provide services to people with a print disability.

1RPH will ensure participation in the planning and delivery of the service by people with a print disability, having regard to the spirit of the *Broadcasting Services Act* to involve the community of interest.

1RPH program makers and broadcasters will ensure that organisations of, or providing services to people with a print disability have adequate access to RPH program time. 1RPH program makers and broadcasters will commit to the application of both the spirit and specific obligations expressed in the Community Broadcasting Codes of Practice.

In addition, issues to be considered in putting new programs to air include:

- capacity of a program maker to implement, sustain and produce a program of high quality
- if any cost to the station is involved
- length of program and whether there is an appropriate time slot for it.
- whether the proposed program meets legislative, and legal requirements.

The program director, a position appointed by the Board, together with the station manager will consider and approve any program proposals and schedule any new programs. If the program maker is not satisfied with their decision, the Board will consider the issue at their next monthly meeting.