



Programming Policy

Policy Number: PN-43

Drafted by: Greg Ingham

Responsible person: Chairperson

Version 1

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1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this policy is to ensure Community Radio Albury Wodonga Co-operative Society Ltd (2 REM) complies with the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* (BSA) and the Community Broadcasting Association of Australia (CBAA) Community Radio Codes of Practice in relation to programming. Furthermore it is to give clear direction on both 2 REM's ethos with relation to programming and the "Objects" contained in the Co-operative's Rules.
- 1.2 The objects of the co-operative as per Rule 6. Are as follows;
 - (a) To conduct and to provide as a service to the community, broadcasting and media services whether audio, visual or by any other means and in particular to conduct one or more radio stations at such places in the vicinity of Albury and of Wodonga as the co-operative shall determine.
 - (b) To hold licences under the Broadcasting Services Act 1992 or any other Act for the registrations or licensing of media services, whether the licence be experimental, temporary or permanent.
 - (c) Through the conduct of these broadcasting services to encourage and promote music, art, science, literature and education for the benefit of the community.
 - (d) To remedy through broadcasting services any deficiency in the progress of the citizens of Albury and Wodonga and its environs involved in the Albury-Wodonga growth centre, towards a better quality of life.
 - (e) To provide technical or other assistance for broadcasting and to carry out research into all areas incidental thereto.
 - (f) To assist the Community Broadcasting Association of Australia in maintaining co-operation and liaison between this co-operative and similar organisations.
 - (g) To undertake a 5 yearly survey of the general public, aimed at the broadest possible cross section of the community, with a view to surveying radio station listener's preferences and the results are to be discussed with both the directors at a board level and with other radio station personnel, to ensure listener's needs are being met as much as possible.

2. Policy

2.1 Programming

2.1.1 The core of the Programming Policy is the need for 2 REM to meet the needs and desires of the citizens of the listening area within the resources available at any given period. Also to provide a balanced schedule of programs that reflect those requirements as well as giving fair and reasonable access and opportunity to community groups that will provide 2 REM with material and human resources. As such, 2 REM will put in place a Programme Committee containing at least 3 members who may be presenters or volunteers, to oversee the programming schedule and the points covered below.

2.1.2 The Board of Directors and the programme committee are to adopt a decision making process that will include the following considerations in deciding on which programs will go to air, be temporarily suspended, remain on-air or be taken off air altogether;

- Similar existing programs on radio stations in the broadcast area
- Public demand
- Equity related issues
- Compatibility with existing station policy/direction
- Resources - financial and human
- Availability of time

2.1.3 The Programme Committee members will meet regularly (at least quarterly) to review the overall programme schedule and report to the Board of Directors. The content that is put to air will always require review to reflect what is occurring in the ever-changing target market. It is the Programme Committee who will decide if it becomes desirable to move certain “shows” to a time better suited for the target audience, introduce new or remove existing shows in line with the current marketing direction, or change the content or presenters of existing shows. However, it is the Board of Directors who shall have the final say in any proposal put forward.

2.1.4 One of 2 REM’s key objectives is to provide a means for aspiring broadcasters from the local community to gain industry experience and/or education in conducting all aspects relating to radio broadcasting. 2 REM will therefore actively encourage community members to become announcers and must be able to accommodate these new volunteers into the programming schedule.

For the above to occur, it may become necessary to ask from time to time for current announcers to give up their slot, or a portion of it, or for the prospective announcer to ‘sit-in’ with the program for a period of time. This is simply to allow others to “have a go” and not necessarily be a permanent change. It is envisaged that all announcers, current or past, will continue to be active members of the organisation, and announcers that make way for others, and continue to contribute will be given preference when new slots become available.

The decision on who to ask to give up a show, or part thereof, should the need arise will be based on the current presenters compliance with radio station and Co-operative policies, procedures, Rules and Conditions of Engagement.

(Note: Non-compliance with radio station and Co-operative policies, procedures, Rules and Conditions of Engagement, may not only result in removal of a presenter from on air duties, but may also jeopardise his or her membership).

3. Programme Policy Standards

3.1 Prohibited Matter

3.1.1 The Board of Directors and the Programme Committee will not put forward or allow the broadcasting of any program which may;

- Incited, encourage or present programs that promote violence or brutality;
- Simulate news or events in such a way as to mislead or alarm listeners;
- Present as desirable the misuse of alcoholic liquor;
- Promote or advertise the use of tobacco;
- Present as desirable the misuse of drugs or narcotics or the use of illicit drugs.
- Incite or perpetuate hatred against; or gratuitously vilify; any person or group on the basis of ethnicity, nationality, race, gender, sexual preference, religion or mental disability. 2 REM recognizes the need for equity and social justice in program content and opportunity.
- Be harmful to children in any way

3.2 Australian Music Performances

3.2.1 2 REM will ensure that during the broadcast of programs;

- (a) Not less than 30% of the total time occupied in the broadcasting of music shall consist of music performed by Australians.
- (b) For the purposes of paragraph (a), where more than one performer is involved in a musical performance, that performance shall be predominantly by Australians.
- (c) Where, at any time during request programs, 2 REM broadcasts music or musical items dictated by listener requests:
 - (i) The time occupied in the broadcasting of music may be reduced by the time occupied by music broadcast as a result of such listener requests;
 - (ii) The total number of musical items broadcast may be reduced by the number of musical items broadcast as a result of such listener requests.
- (d) Paragraph (a) shall not apply if an occasional special program is dedicated to an overseas performer or performance or an overseas music style or theme.
- (e) Paragraph (a) shall not apply if the broadcast period is less than half an hour.

3.3 Talkback and Interviews

3.3.1 Such programs must be defined as such and will not transmit the words of an identifiable person unless;

- (a) That person has been informed in advance that the words may be transmitted and has given their consent for this to occur; or
- (b) In the case of words, which have been recorded without the knowledge of the person, that person has subsequently, but prior to the transmission, indicated consent to the transmission of the words.

3.4 Political Programming / Commentary

3.4.1 2 REM is an apolitical radio broadcaster. Programs with content of a political nature must always be clearly identified as such. Producers and announcers must ensure that content presented has been researched and that due consideration has been given to all points of view. Fair and reasonable opportunity must be given to all parties involved in the respective issue or discussion. Producers and announcers must have the content approved by the radio station co-ordinator and/or the Programme Committee.

3.4.2 All Producers and announcers must adhere to the Co-operative's Objects, 2 REM Station Policy, the BSA and the CBAA Community Radio Codes of Practice.

Related Documents

CBAA Community Radio Codes of Practice

Presenter's "Conditions of Engagement"

Authorised

G J Ingham
Secretary