

yassfm 100.3

'Something for Everyone'

2YAS

**Yass
Community
Radio Assn.
Inc.**

Policy No 1

Yassfm Ethos

OUR ETHOS.

Yass Community Radio Association Incorporated (Yassfm) is operated totally by volunteers. All members are volunteers, all volunteers are members. Members are required to be financial.

The aim of Yassfm, at the time of its application for a licence and still applicable today, is to provide a service to the broad spectrum of community interests within the Yass Valley area.

To do this, as noted in its application, it will-

1. Provide local news, local weather and relevant bushfire information.
2. Offer programmes for/by Aboriginal and other ethnic groups, religious, sporting and youth groups.
3. Offer programmes covering rurally oriented issues, including all types of local farming and tourism.
4. Provide coverage for local events, sports, fairs and celebrations and,
5. Provide community interest information sessions.

The Community Broadcasting Code of Practice sponsored by the Australian Community Media Authority, and adopted by Yass Community Radio Assn. Inc, elaborates guiding principles. This Association supports these principles by ensuring it will-

1. Promote harmony and diversity, in contributing to a cohesive, inclusive and culturally diverse community.
2. Pursue the principles of democracy, access and equity, especially to people and issues under-represented in other media.
3. Enhance the diversity of programme choices available to the local public and present programmes which expand the variety of viewpoints broadcast in the local area.
4. Support local arts, music and culture in the stations programming and reflect a sense of local identity, character and cultural diversity.
5. Will remain independent from undue influence from any person or body by ensuring that all facets of Yass Community Radio Association Inc. are authorised by Yass Community Radio Association Inc. management decisions.
6. Widen the involvement of the Yass Valley community in broadcasting by encouraging the local populace to become members and participants of Yass Community Radio Association Inc.
7. Will always arrange its programming so as to protect children from material which may be harmful to immature minds.

The Broadcasting Services Act 1992, outlines licence conditions and programme standards. Provisions of the Act require us to, -

1. Provide community broadcasting services for the benefit of the community, and not operate purely to make a profit.
2. Continue to represent the community interest which it represented when the licence was allocated or last renewed, although this station can apply to change that community interest at renewal.

3. Encourage community access and participation in all aspects of station operations, from programming to management, and provide a safe and clean workplace for its volunteers, and
4. Only broadcast sponsorship announcements, rather than advertising, which totals no more than five minutes in any hour of broadcasting.

Yass Community Radio Association Inc. recognises that it is vitally important that it has written policies, procedures, position statements and other documentation which supports its ethos. The Association agrees that it will regularly review these documents in the knowledge that technology is constantly changing, there are always better ways of doing things and that all members are deserving of being told of these changes. Copies of these documents will be on display at the studio for perusal by members. All members are encouraged to make themselves aware of the documents, but they must not be removed from the studio at any time. They are for the use of all members.

The Association has recently installed equipment which will guarantee power supply during any emergency. This is so that we can provide a relay of emergency messages from the local emergency services to the community. This Association is currently in the process of producing protocols in collaboration with the local emergency services on how to operate with the best effect.

STATION POLICY.

In order to maintain this ethos Yassfm will follow these guiding principles at all times.

Programming.

The general principles of programming are stated here.

- A. Yassfm will not broadcast material which may-
 1. incite or encourage, violence or brutality,
 2. simulate news or events in such a way as to mislead or alarm listeners,
 3. encourage the misuse of drugs, including alcohol, narcotics and tobacco,
- B. Yassfm will avoid censorship wherever possible and uphold community standards.
- C. Yassfm will encourage free speech but will not stereotype, incite, vilify or perpetuate hatred against, or attempt to demean any group, within the community.

News and Current Affairs.

- A. This station will promote accuracy and fairness in news and current affairs programmes.
- B. News and current affairs programmes (including news flashes) should,
 1. present factual material accurately and ensure that reasonable efforts are made to correct substantial errors of fact at the earliest possible opportunity,
 2. clearly distinguish factual material from commentary and analysis

3. not present news in such a way as to create unnecessary distress to listeners,
4. not misrepresent a viewpoint by giving misleading emphasis, editing out of context or withholding relevant available facts,
5. respect each person's legitimate right to privacy,
6. not mislead people into making comments that they believe will not be broadcast.

Australian Music Content.

Yassfm will recognise Australian composers and/or performers by providing opportunities to have their material broadcast on a regular basis. We will have at least 25% Australian content.

Sponsorship.

- A. Yassfm will have no more than 5 minutes per hour of sponsorship announcements.
- B. We will ensure that sponsorship will not be a factor in determining access to broadcasting time.
- C. We will ensure that the sponsors of programmes do not influence the content and style of individual programmes.
- D. We will ensure that sponsors do not influence overall programming.

Handling Complaints.

- A. Yassfm acknowledges the right of its audience to comment and make complaints concerning,
 1. compliance with the licence
 2. programme content, and
 3. the general service provided to the community.
- B. We will make available information regarding station policy and provide copies of the policy on request.
- C. We will make every reasonable effort to resolve complaints, except where a complaint is clearly frivolous, vexatious or not made in good faith.
- D. We will make appropriate arrangements to ensure that,
 1. complaints will be received by a responsible person,
 2. a record of complaints in a permanent form will be maintained by a responsible officer of Yassfm,
 3. it will undertake to pass on all complaints from the public, made in good faith, both complimentary and critical, to the individuals responsible for preparing and presenting the programme(s) concerned,
 4. all complaints will be conscientiously considered, investigated and responded to as soon as practicable,

5. if the complainant indicates dissatisfaction with the response, the licensee will advise the complainant of their right to refer the matter to the Australian Community Media Authority, and
6. we will provide the ACMA annually with a “notification of complaints” in a format advised by ACMA.

Conflict Resolution.

Yassfm has a process in place to resolve conflicts between members and between members and the Association.

Authorisation

This policy was adopted by the Board of Yass community Radio Association Incorporated, at its meeting held on 8th December 2009.

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Secretary

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President
Yass Community Radio Assn. Inc.

