

Submission re. The Viability
Indigenous digital television b.

GENERAL MANAGER

PUBLIC BROADCASTING

DEPT. OF COMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION

TECHNOLOGY & THE ARTS

G.P.O. BOX 2154

CANBERRA A.C.T. 2601

This submission is to support the widespread inclusion of the Aboriginal community in sharing the benefits of digital television broadcasting.

An indigenous self-managed and owned television service would build on already impressive capacities in sound broadcasting.

The service would need to provide for dissemination to communities throughout Australia, country and urban, and not be restricted in locality.

As a white Australian, I think that justice demands that Aboriginal communities should have access to their own digital television equal to that of the rest of the Australian public.

Having been fragmented and disadvantaged for so long, an even greater need exists for them to be able to own and use their own means of expression.

Growing up in our own culture provides us with our own identity, yet Aboriginal children are in danger of losing their own unique heritage, since they are heavily influenced by the general television media with only token Aboriginal content.

It is in the public interest and worldwide interest to ensure that Aboriginal skills and talents are fully developed, to keep their own culture and changing concerns before themselves and the general public.

In that way, their problems may be more fully understood, racism diminished, and more chance of a fairer Australia eventuate.

It should be possible to provide a service to remote communities, as well as urban centres and country towns, if there is a will to do it.