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About us

The Community Broadcasting Foundation (CBF) supports and champions community-owned and operated media to connect people and tell vital local stories. We are a team of 10 full-time and part-time staff and more than 140 volunteers who are all passionate about community media. Read more about us at cbf.org.au.

Each year, our organisation provides almost \$20 million to support more than 460 community broadcasting services operating in communities all around Australia.

As an organisation, we operate independently to ensure our grants process is fair and equitable. We take great pride in our engagement and consultation practices with people working and volunteering in community media, with sector organisations and with the Australian Government.

Volunteers who are experienced in community broadcasting and industry experts are much-valued members of the CBF Team. Our volunteers collectively review over 600 grant applications each year, contributing their insights and experience so that our grant programs meet the evolving needs of Australian community broadcasting.

About community media

Australian community broadcasting is recognised internationally as one of the most successful examples of grassroots media. Community broadcasting amplifies the voice of Australians, providing a platform to share local stories through radio, television and digital. Each week, more than 57,000 hours of radio and 34,000 hours of video content are broadcast across Australia.

Community broadcasters carry voices and culture to every corner of Australia, actively engaging communities with local news, information, cultural content and entertainment. Many focus on specific areas of interest such as youth, music or education while others broadcast specialised content engaging ethnic, Indigenous, religious and print disabled communities.

More than [461 community-owned radio stations](#) and two community television producers are licensed around Australia by the Australian Community and Media Authority ([ACMA](#)). Community radio stations operate in towns and cities across Australia with the majority located in regional and rural areas.

Volunteers are at the heart

Community media is brought to life by more than 22,000 volunteers. These dedicated volunteers sit at the heart of their local community, inspiring connection by producing media that is 'for the people, by the people'. Community broadcasting actively promotes access and participation in operations, administration and media production.

Community media organisations are often managed by teams of volunteers, with many of the smaller stations operating 24-hours, seven days per week on less than an average annual salary. These dedicated volunteers are creative, innovative and agile and most importantly, driven by their passion for making a difference.

Audience

Each week, over 5 million listeners across Australia tune in to community radio for more than 15-hours. Community radio captures a loyal audience with engaging, local content not found in mainstream media. Additionally, more than 1 million Australians watch community television, including media producers [ICTV](#), [C31 Melbourne and Geelong](#), [C44 Adelaide](#).

Read more about listeners in the [National Listener Survey](#) funded by the CBF.

More information

- [Useful resources](#)
- [CBF Annual Report 2020](#)