

**Indigenous Remote Communications Association
Call for Government Support for the
Indigenous Media Sector
Election 2016**



CALL FOR ACTION 5

Expansion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander radio services

Issue: Significant number of ATSI communities without a culturally appropriate and locally relevant radio service.

There are one hundred and thirty-seven (137) licensed Indigenous radio services in Australia, of which one hundred and six (106) are Remote Indigenous Broadcasting Service (RIBS), in very remote and remote Indigenous communities.

This leaves a large number of Indigenous communities without an Indigenous specific radio service. IRCA is approached on a regular basis by Indigenous organisations wishing to establish a local Indigenous radio service due to the limitations of national and commercial broadcasters.

National and commercial broadcasters do not provide content on a continuing basis that can support the interests, languages, cultures and needs of Indigenous peoples. Such media is often perceived as being racist at times as well as often breaching complex and nuanced cultural protocols.

It is critical that the local Indigenous owned and managed media sector be sustained. Their modes of production cater for cultural business needs, protocols of crewing, and protocols of who can and can't tell stories. Most importantly the modes of production enable productions to be fully in language and to be managed according to local protocols. National and commercial productions work at a completely different and sometimes inimical level.

Those communities without an Indigenous broadcasting service cannot be "in-filled" by non-Indigenous broadcasters or national broadcasters. Indigenous communities in Adelaide are without an Indigenous radio service as are significant Aboriginal communities in regional and rural NSW, Queensland and Victoria.

IRCA calls for:

The funding of a significant scaled radio broadcasting expansion program into those Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities without a current Indigenous radio service. The scaling to be at a rate of 4 new services per year, including funding for the establishment of the radio service capital equipment and a contribution to ongoing operational costs.