Foreward and summary

Queer Community Media Inc (QCMI) is a group of dedicated volunteers who hold an active interest in gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender affairs and lifestyle, as well as a keen interest in the media (specifically radio).

QCMI wishes to make a submission to ACMA that outlines the following:

- Allocation of 100.5 MHz to 2RPH who is already broadcasting into the proposed service area on another frequency (and intends to continue to broadcast on another frequency if successful in it’s application for 100.5 MHz) would not be an efficient use of available spectrum.
- Allocation of 100.5 MHz to 2RPH for the purposes of FM translation would not be efficient use of available spectrum, when it is clear in the submission from 2RPH that there are other options available to 2RPH to improve signal quality on it’s existing AM service.
- 100.5 MHz should be allocated to an aspirant broadcaster to provide a community radio service to the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (Queer) community in the inner Sydney area.
- The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (Queer) community’s need for a community radio service in the inner Sydney area outweighs the need of 2RPH for an FM translation service.
- QCMI is capable of providing, and wishes to provide a community radio service to the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (Queer) community in the inner Sydney area and has provided details of the service it proposes to provide.
Section 1
The Applicant

Name
Queer Community Media Inc

Address
ACON Building
9 Commonwealth Street
SURRY HILLS NSW 2010

Contact person
David Hamilton
Phone - 0433 054 321
Email - david@radioq.com.au

Introduction

Queer Community Media Inc (QCMi) is an Incorporated Association in New South Wales (Incorporation Number INC 9886258).

The association was initially formed early in 2006, and began as a group of people who held a keen interest in broadcasting, media and journalism, with a specific interest in Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (Queer) media.

The association was incorporated in New South Wales in September 2006.

Objects of the Association

The objects of QCMI as stated in our constitution are as follows:

a) to utilise any available means, method or technology available to the organisation (with a particular emphasis on radio broadcasting) in order to broadcast programmes of news, current affairs, discussion of social issues, and provide a medium for the expression of opinion for the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and greater queer communities in Sydney
c) to highlight the achievements and successes of members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and greater queer communities in Sydney in order to promote a sense of pride

d) to provide a forum of discussion, debate, and sharing of thoughts and feelings via a broadcast medium to all members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and greater queer communities in Sydney

e) to educate and inform all members of the community about social issues, barriers, difficulties and concerns of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and greater queer communities in Sydney

f) to provide information, education and resources to members of the community who would not ordinarily be in a position, or be inclined, to receive such information from other sources for fear of retribution, alienation or humiliation

g) to provide assistance and support to other community associations with similar objects by whatever means available

h) provide resources and opportunities to members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and greater queer communities in Sydney for the purposes of education, experience and self improvement.

i) to provide information and education to all members of the community on health issues, particularly HIV/AIDS.

j) to become involved with any appropriate local, state or federal government programs in order to assist members of the community who are at risk, unemployed, sick, infirm, or otherwise disadvantaged

k) to provide free and open access to any resources or facilities owned or under the control of the association
Community of Interest of the Association

QCMI represents the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (Queer) community, which the association views as including the below communities and groups

- Gay men
- Lesbians
- Bisexual men and women
- Transgendered men and women (post operative & pre operative)
- Men and women who are sexually active with the same sex, but do not identify themselves as gay or lesbian
- ‘Out’ men and women (those who publicly acknowledge their sexual orientation)
- ‘Closeted’ men and women (those who do not publicly acknowledge their sexual orientation
- ‘Queer indentifiers’. Members of the community who do not fall into the above categories, but who regard themselves as ‘queer’.
- Families, friends, colleagues, peers and acquaintances of members of the queer community

Internal policies, procedures and guidelines

QCMI has a number of internal policies, procedures and guidelines in place to ensure continual adherence to the objects of the association as the organisation grows and expands.

Many of these are contained within the constitution, however in addition QCMI has produced the following documents for it’s members:

- Internal grievance resolution policy
- Internal anti-discrimination policy
- Conflict of interest policy
- Station Volunteer Handbook (Draft Only)

Copies of these documents are available upon request.
Section 2
The Proposed Service

QCMI wishes to express interest in the association being granted a licence to use 100.5 MHz for the purpose of providing a local area community radio service in the inner Sydney area.

Proposed frequency

100.5MHz

Proposed licence area (geographical)

The licence area served will depend largely on any discussions with ACMA relating to technical specifications of the licence. We anticipate however, that the geographical area served will include the council area zones of City of Sydney, North Sydney, Woollahra, Randwick and Marrickville

Proposed name

Radio Q (Q100.5)

Proposed community of interest

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (Queer); specifically

- Gay men
- Lesbians
- Bisexual men and women
- Transgendered men and women (post operative & pre operative)
- Men and women who are sexually active with the same sex, but do not identify themselves as gay or lesbian
- ‘Out’ men and women (those who publicly acknowledge their sexual orientation)
- ‘Closed’ men and women (those who do not publicly acknowledge their sexual orientation
- ‘Queer identifiers’. Members of the community who do not fall into the above categories, but who regard themselves as ‘queer’.
- Families, friends, colleagues, peers and acquaintances of members of the queer community
Proposed Programming & Music Format

QCMI has drafted guidelines for a potential programming and music format, which is outlined below. However we wish to point out that no factor of the proposed format is inflexible. QCMI takes very seriously its commitment to its community of interest to be representative, and shall be driven by the needs and wants of our community in respect of music and programming choices.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FORMAT</th>
<th>ORIGIN</th>
<th>PROPORTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a) Talk</td>
<td>Local/original material</td>
<td>35 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>National syndication</td>
<td>0 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>International syndication</td>
<td>0 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other arrangements</td>
<td>0 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>35 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Music</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>8 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Australian</td>
<td>17 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Overseas</td>
<td>40 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>65 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>100 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The music library shall consist of a wide variety of different artists, genres and styles. QCMI shall be driven in its choices by feedback and input received from the community as well as any research conducted from time to time. Initially however, Q100.5 would play a mix of Top 40, Pop, Retro Classics, Dance, RnB, Hip Hop and Contemporary Light Rock.

The proposed programming format shall also be fluid, and driven by community needs and wants. Initially however, we anticipate that the programming format shall be ‘anchor’ driven between 6am and 7pm (Primarily regular hosts of magazine style programs), with programs outside of these hours to be more specialist (e.g. specialty music programs, talkback etc).
It is the vision of QCMI that specialty programs should include such individual programs that are specifically relevant to the following:

- Youth and young people
- HIV/AIDS
- Elderly and aging people
- Unsigned/Emerging artists
- Transgender affairs
- Bisexuality
- Sport
- News
- Talkback/Community Opinion
- Entertainment (Safe/Responsible entertainment options)
- Public Safety
- Queer indigenous people
- Disability

Proposed Organisational Structure

Please find our proposed organisational and staff structure attached as Appendix 1 to this submission.

Technical Specifications

Please find below the proposed technical specifications for the use of 100.5 MHz as a full time low power broadcast service.

Site Name:  Elan Building
Height:  175m AGL
ERP:  100w
Pattern:  Omnidirectional
Polarisation:  Circular

The following equipment will be used to provide the service:

Antenna:  RFS CPF500 Sidemount
STL Links:  Fordray LBL800 or equivalent
Transmitter:  Eddystone BroadcastXE250

Engineer:  TBA
Section 3
The Community of Interest

The community of interest of the proposed service as outlined above is the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (Queer) community.

Potential listership

After extensive research, QCMI has found that there are no 100% conclusive reports or studies to demonstrate any precise figures on the proportion of the inner Sydney population who identify as Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual or Transgender.

The most widely accepted view in the community at large is that the proportion of the population who are predominantly same sex attracted is 8-10% (particular reference is made to the reports issued by Alfred Kinsey, entitled Sexuality in the Human Male, and Sexuality in the Human Female)

For a more specific figure on the proportion of the population who fall into our community of interest, QCMI makes reference to a report published by CSIRO titled “Estimating population distribution and HIV prevalence among homosexual and bisexual men” published in February 2006. This report drew it’s conclusions from data from the 2000/2001 Sydney Gay Community Periodic Survey and the Australian Study of Health and Relationships. The report outlines in particular the distribution of gay and bisexual men in *inner Sydney*, as well as the inner eastern and western suburbs.

From a re-analysis of the data provided for the purposes of the report, CSIRO found that the proportion of men who identified as homosexual or bisexual in these areas ranged from 4.4% to 48.1%; from 9.8% to 51.5% of men reported same-sex experiences during their lifetime; and 12.9% to 52.8% of men had ever experienced feelings of same-sex attraction.

Again, due to a lack of conclusive data on the proportion of the population who fall specifically into our community of interest, it is impossible for QCMI to give an accurate forecast on the number of potential listeners. However, based on the above information, and calculated against the population that are 15 years of age and over of the council areas in which we anticipate our broadcast will be heard (420,117 Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics), QCMI estimates potential listenership of the proposed service to be anywhere from 33,609 - 221,821 listeners.

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Please also note that these figures have not taken into account any potential listenership from people who do not fall into the specified community of interest. We anticipate that there will be local area interest from the community in having an alternative listening choice regardless of whether or not they personally identify with our community of interest. QCMI expects that a strong listener base will be built from this group also adding to the viability of the proposed service.

The above figure also does not take into account proposed listenership from the bisexual female and transgender communities due to a lack of substantive research data on these groups. We anticipate that community interest in the proposed service from these groups will be high.

It is the belief of QCMI that the potential listenership figures demonstrate that there is a significant proportion of the population of the proposed licence area who fall into the community of interest as outlined and who would benefit from a dedicated Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (Queer) community radio service.

From the ‘Report of the Australian Broadcasting Authority on the allocation of three Community Radio Broadcasting Licences to serve the Sydney area’ of May 2001, QCMI presents the following statements in support of this belief:

“The ABA accepts that there are social factors which make it difficult to accurately assess the size of the community in the Sydney licence area.....”

and;

“On the basis of the evidence before it, the ABA accepts that the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community within the Sydney licence area is of a significant size”

In its submission to ACMA in relation to 100.5 MHz, 2RPH did not include an estimate of the number of people it expected to listen (and in turn benefit from) its proposed service. Our preliminary research indicates that the number of listeners to the proposed 2RPH service would be significantly smaller than the number of listeners to the proposed QCMI service (Source: ABS and CERA).
Section 4
Community need

It is the firm belief of QCMI that there is a desperate need for a Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (Queer) community broadcaster in the inner Sydney area. The reasons and justifications for our position are outlined in the paragraphs below.

Inadequate media choices

The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (Queer) community in the inner Sydney area has very limited choices when it comes to Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (Queer) specific media. Other known media outlets or sources are listed as:

- Sydney Star Observer - Newspaper (Free)
- SX News - Magazine (Free)
- Lesbians on the Loose - Magazine (Free)
- Queer TV - Television (Charged - Subscription)

Print

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (Queer) readers are quite well served in the inner Sydney area. Sydney Star Observer is arguably the most widely read resource with a circulation of 30,833 (and an estimated readership of 80,000) per week. Sydney Star Observer reports on current issues, health matters, and lifestyle.

The other magazines known to QCMI at the time of this submission publish information primarily related to lifestyle, with little focus on current news, social issues or health matters.

Television

QCMI is aware of only one television program available that is specific to the needs and wants of the Sydney queer community - Queer TV. In saying this, the program is evidently produced for national syndication and therefore any information relating specifically to the Queer community in the inner Sydney area is limited. It should also be noted that this program is not available on free to air television, and a subscription fee must be paid for access to the broadcast.
In the past there have been further television programming choices that are targeted to our community of interest, however these programs are no longer available.

Radio

QCMI is not aware of any other dedicated Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (Queer) community broadcaster in the proposed geographical area.

QCMI has been also unable to find any program broadcast on any existing commercial station that caters to the needs of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (Queer) community.

QCMI has been made aware of one specialty Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (Queer) program that is currently broadcast on sub metro community station 2GLF. To our knowledge, this program is primarily driven by lifestyle content and announcer personality, and little information or commentary on social/health issues is broadcast. This program also, as a result of the service area of the 2GLF licence, does not broadcast into the inner Sydney area.

Reference is made to ‘Private Lives - A report on the health and wellbeing of GLBTI Australians (March 2006)’. Respondents in this report were asked about their frequency of access to gay media, with the results as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>Trans-males</th>
<th>Trans-females</th>
<th>Intersex males</th>
<th>Intersex females</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Almost daily</td>
<td>10.6</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>28.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td>34.0</td>
<td>30.8</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>21.2</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>28.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>17.3</td>
<td>25.9</td>
<td>41.2</td>
<td>13.6</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A number of times per year</td>
<td>14.3</td>
<td>15.4</td>
<td>11.8</td>
<td>18.2</td>
<td>40.0</td>
<td>28.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rarely</td>
<td>16.6</td>
<td>13.9</td>
<td>23.5</td>
<td>31.8</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>14.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

After analysis of existing media choices available to the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (Queer) community in the inner Sydney area, whilst it is the firm belief of QCMI that there are a severe lack of socially responsible media choices available to our community of interest, it would appear from the above statistics that access to gay media by our community of interest is strong. We anticipate that community interest in a GLBT specific community broadcaster would be very strong also.

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Lack of general community education and awareness

As what appears to be a direct result of the lack of media attention on the social issues faced by members of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (Queer) community, there have been no apparent improvements in the levels of understanding and acceptance from the general community.

In particular, there appears to be little to no change in attitudes relating to homophobia in the past 10 years on a national level.

Roy Morgan research conducted an extensive research project in 2003 & 2004 to identify the extent of homophobia in Australia. Below is a graph which outlines the percentage of respondents who consider homosexuality to be immoral in each region within Sydney (the qualifying question to indicate a homophobic view).

Figure 2 Percent who consider homosexuality to be immoral, by areas within major cities – Sydney (%)

Source: Roy Morgan Research, October 2003-September 2004

As this graph demonstrates, more than one quarter of the population of the inner Sydney area are considered by this study to hold homophobic beliefs.
For the purposes of comparison, we have included a similar breakdown for the city of Melbourne.

Figure 3 Percent who consider homosexuality to be immoral, by areas within major cities – Melbourne (%)

Source: Roy Morgan Research, October 2003-September 2004

As this graph demonstrates, the number of respondents who consider homosexuality to be immoral in the inner city area of Melbourne are considerably less than in Sydney. Whilst there are no research findings available at this time that tell us the reason for this dramatic difference, it is worth noting that the Melbourne inner city area is home to Joy FM - a dedicated Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (Queer) community broadcaster, and this media presence may be a contributing factor to the large differences in homophobic attitudes between the two cities.

From the study titled ‘You Shouldn’t Have to Hide to be Safe - A Report on Homophobic Hostilities and Violence Against Gay Men and Lesbians in New South Wales’ (2003), QCMII was able to draw the following conclusions relating to homophobic abuse in Sydney:

- Half or more of respondents in this report stated that concerns or experience relating to homophobic abuse had led them to modify their behaviour (for example dressing differently, or refraining from expressing affection in public), and/or had made them feel worried, abused or anxious
• The percentage of all respondents who had experienced some form of abuse in the previous 12 months was more than half at 56%
• Overall, the incidence of abuse in the past year tended to be higher than average among people living in *inner Sydney*

It is the belief of QCMI that the above is primarily a result of lack of understanding, lack of communication, and in some cases a fear of the unknown, which can in part be attributed to the strong lack of media coverage given to social issues and concerns of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (Queer) community.

*QCMI intends, upon receipt of permission to broadcast, to dedicate itself to making a marked difference in the inner Sydney area by broadcasting information that enlightens, informs and educates both the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (Queer) community and the community at large on ways to tackle these destructive public attitudes.*

*QCMI is also committed to broadcasting factual information in relation to social issues experienced by the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (Queer) community in order to educate the general listening public, specifically to minimise instances of confusion or misinformation.*

**Lack of queer community education and awareness**

*QCMI is of the firm belief that a number of social problems and issues (particularly health issues) suffered by members of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (Queer) community are a result of information and resources not reaching affected or at risk individuals. This can be attributed to the types of distribution of educational materials, and the level to which Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (Queer) people identify or participate in their community.*

*From the study ‘Private Lives - A report on the health and wellbeing of GLBTI Australians (March 2006) the following table outlines the level to which Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (Queer) respondents to the study feel connected to the Gay and Lesbian community:*

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Table 59: Do you feel connected to the gay and lesbian community in your everyday life?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>Trans-</th>
<th>Trans-</th>
<th>Intersex</th>
<th>Intersex</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>males</td>
<td>females</td>
<td>males</td>
<td>females</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>28.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mostly</td>
<td>16.7</td>
<td>22.3</td>
<td>15.6</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat</td>
<td>30.6</td>
<td>35.4</td>
<td>37.5</td>
<td>33.3</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>14.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rarely</td>
<td>26.7</td>
<td>23.5</td>
<td>37.5</td>
<td>33.3</td>
<td>60.0</td>
<td>28.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never</td>
<td>17.4</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>19.7</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>28.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From these figures, QCMI was able to determine that almost half of respondents to this study did not generally feel connected to the gay and lesbian community in everyday life. This would clearly have a marked effect on the number of individuals who would participate in this community to the extent necessary to be exposed to relevant educational resources and information.

Health

Many media sources have been quoted as saying that the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (Queer) community in Sydney is suffering from an ‘epidemic’ of sexually transmitted diseases. In particular, instances of HIV/AIDS are rising at a concerning rate, particularly amongst gay men, with figures showing that New South Wales has the highest number nationally of people living with the virus.

The many HIV/AIDS and sexual health organisations in our city have worked for many years to educate and inform the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (Queer) community about the ways that sexually transmitted diseases can be spread, and with some success. However the large majority of educational messages are being delivered as printed resources, and through print media, with little to no information being broadcast on television or radio.

Print distribution of campaigns and information has been mildly successful, but is not capable of fully reaching the target readers. Reasons for this are:

- Print resources are of little to no value to people with print handicaps (visual impairment etc)
- Many individuals will not take print resources on delicate health matters for fear of ridicule or humiliation
- Many individuals are reluctant to visit sexual health clinics to collect information for fear of ridicule or humiliation

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• Individuals are who not ‘out’ or publicly open about their sexuality are very reluctant to visit gay venues or be in possession of print material of this nature for fear of being ‘outed’.
• Individuals who are ill, elderly or infirm may not be physically capable of attending a venue where print material is available.
• In many cases, individuals will simply not spend the time to read such materials
• Some members of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (Queer) community do not identify with Queer venues or lifestyle and choose not to attend queer specific venues

QCMI believes that a full time dedicated Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (Queer) broadcaster would be able to make a considerable difference to the success of sexual health campaigns because

• Radio is freely accessible in the home, car or on the internet, thus there is no requirement to visit an openly gay venue to collect information or be ‘caught’ with a brochure or newspaper specific to this topic
• Radio can be received in such a way that is confidential, and thus does not present any risk of exposure if listened to by a person who is not publicly open or ‘out’ regarding their sexuality.
• Radio is a medium which is readily accessible by all members of the community, regardless of any print disabilities or handicaps
• Messages broadcast on radio reach an audience who is not necessarily tuning in to hear this specific information, but it will reach them as they are listening out for other segments or music, thus reaching a passive audience as well as an active one and in turn significantly increasing the reach of any campaign

Another element for consideration when assessing the value of radio in relation to sexual health campaigns is that the information will also reach people who are not necessarily themselves at risk but may be in a position to encourage peers to take heed of the broadcasted message.

**Mental Health & Wellbeing**

During informal discussion with inner Sydney GLBT residents about a proposed community radio service for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (Queer) community, QCMI found that what appeared to be a large number of individuals suffer from depression and anxiety. These discussions led us to refer to the report titled “Private Lives - A report on the health and wellbeing of GLBTI Australians” (March 2006).
Data found within this report allowed QCMI to better understand the main issues of concern for individuals within the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (Queer) community.

The table below outlines in details the main areas of concern for these individuals.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>All</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>Trans-</th>
<th>Trans-</th>
<th>Intersex</th>
<th>Intersex</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>males</td>
<td>females</td>
<td>males</td>
<td>females</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coming out</td>
<td>13.7</td>
<td>13.3</td>
<td>13.7</td>
<td>23.3</td>
<td>22.6</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>33.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depression / anxiety</td>
<td>62.8</td>
<td>64.8</td>
<td>60.7</td>
<td>63.3</td>
<td>50.9</td>
<td>87.5</td>
<td>83.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family problems</td>
<td>31.0</td>
<td>26.8</td>
<td>36.7</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>18.9</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>33.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grief and loss</td>
<td>20.4</td>
<td>18.3</td>
<td>22.9</td>
<td>13.3</td>
<td>20.8</td>
<td>37.5</td>
<td>33.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV issues</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>16.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved self understanding</td>
<td>29.7</td>
<td>27.4</td>
<td>32.6</td>
<td>36.7</td>
<td>20.8</td>
<td>62.5</td>
<td>33.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relationship break up</td>
<td>26.6</td>
<td>25.3</td>
<td>29.6</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>33.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relationship problems</td>
<td>38.8</td>
<td>39.2</td>
<td>39.5</td>
<td>23.3</td>
<td>26.4</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>33.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relationship with children</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sexual abuse</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td>13.3</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>33.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Identity</td>
<td>18.8</td>
<td>18.3</td>
<td>16.8</td>
<td>36.7</td>
<td>56.6</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>83.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual problems</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>12.4</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>13.3</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>50.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workplace issues</td>
<td>22.8</td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td>23.2</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>33.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From this data, QCMI was able to conclude that there a large number of issues of concern for members of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (Queer) community. In particular, we note the following:

- Significantly more than half of respondents identified depression/anxiety as a main issue of concern.
- Following depression/anxiety, the highest number of respondents indicated that main issues of concern focussed on relationships (relationship break up, relationship problems, family problems).
- A high number of respondents indicated that improved self understanding was a main issue of concern.

The conclusion drawn from these figures is that a large number of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (Queer) individuals are experiencing problems with personal relationships (including family) as well as their own self identity.
QCMI strongly believes that a dedicated Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (Queer) community radio station would be a highly effective means to reach out to affected individuals. In particular QCMI intends to broadcast the following:

- Programs that highlight mental health and mental wellbeing issues, and identify coping mechanisms or suggestions to encourage improvement
- Programs and information that encourage greater understanding of mental health and mental wellbeing issues in the wider community
- Contact details and information pertaining to services available to people who may be experiencing depression, anxiety or concerns about personal circumstances

Of particular concern was the number of respondents who indicated in this study that they had contemplated suicide. Respondents were asked the question ‘have you felt that you would be better off dead’. 15.7% of respondents indicated that they had experienced such suicidal ideation within the 2 weeks prior to participating in the study. We feel that this highlights the strong need for delivery of factual information on how to deal with difficult personal situations. It is the belief of QCMI that radio would be a highly effective means of delivery of such information, and in turn could be expected to have a considerable positive impact on the lives of people with mental health issues.

**Drug Use**

Many previous studies have shown that the prevalence of use and abuse of drugs and illicit substances within the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (Queer) community is very high in comparison to the general population.

For reference purposes, below is an indication of the proportion of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (Queer) community who are regular (more than 5 times in a month) users of drugs, taken from “Private Lives - A report on the health and wellbeing of GLBTI Australians” (March 2006)
Table 29:  
Use of drugs on more than five occasions in the previous month

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>Trans-males</th>
<th>Trans-females</th>
<th>Intersex males</th>
<th>Intersex females</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tobacco</td>
<td>38.3</td>
<td>35.6</td>
<td>44.1</td>
<td>35.4</td>
<td>36.4</td>
<td>42.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marijuana</td>
<td>16.6</td>
<td>14.5</td>
<td>14.7</td>
<td>10.8</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>14.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecstasy</td>
<td>11.8</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speed</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td></td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crystal</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GBH</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cocaine</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td></td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steroids</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>21.2</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>14.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSD</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td></td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heroin</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is concerning to note that a large proportion of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (Queer) community (significantly more than one third) are regular or frequent users of tobacco.

Although there is no conclusive data available to tell us the reasons for the high rate of drug use and abuse, the most widely accepted theories for this include:

- Stress related dependence, as a result of the stresses associated with coping with judgemental public attitudes
- A form of escapism from a homophobic or abusive experience or situation
- Cultural and peer pressure from other frequent drug users
- A lack of clear or readily accessible educational resources to inform users of the negative impacts (financial, social, health, relationships) of frequent drug use.

QCMI is of the belief that a full time dedicated Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (Queer) community broadcaster would be in a very strong position to make an impact on the success of campaigns against drug abuse, in the same way as listed above in relation to sexual health campaigns.
Section 4
Conclusion

QCMI has not been made aware of any other community organisation or aspirant broadcaster who intends to express interest or make a submission to ACMA in relation to the allocation of 100.5 MHz.

QCMI is however aware of the submission made by 2RPH to ACMA, and it’s desire for use of the frequency for FM translation of it’s existing AM service.

QCMI is highly respectful of the important role that 2RPH plays in the Sydney community. However, it is our belief that allocation of 100.5 MHz to 2RPH would not be the most efficient and responsible use of spectrum.

It is the understanding of QCMI that 2RPH already broadcast into the proposed service area using 1224 kHz, and that they wish to use 100.5 MHz to improve or extend their existing coverage. However, in its submission to the Australian Broadcasting Authority on 27th May 2005, 2RPH makes reference to the proposed consolidation of AM broadcast facilities at the Homebush Bay site, and the possibility that the 2RPH 1224 kHz broadcast infrastructure may be included in this consolidation. In relation to this, 2RPH stated ‘...should our transmitter be relocated to Homebush Bay with it’s current technical operating parameters it is likely that the proposed Sydney East [100.5 MHz] service would no longer be necessary and could be switched off.’

In relation to the proposed use of 100.5 MHz by 2RPH, QCMI makes the following points:

- It is apparent that 2RPH has not yet exhausted all possibilities relating to improvements, modification or relocation of it’s existing AM infrastructure in order to overcome perceived coverage deficiencies in the Sydney East area. By it’s own admission, an FM translation service for 2RPH could possibly be only needed as a temporary measure. QCMI argues that this would not equate to efficient use of broadcast spectrum.
- It is our belief that if a community broadcaster is already broadcasting into a service area (regardless of which LAP the licence is held in), any subsequent available frequencies should be allocated to other groups to allow maximum and fair community access to broadcast spectrum.
QCMI wishes to note that there have been no estimates of the potential number of listeners affected by the perceived coverage deficiency in the 2RPH AM service in the proposed licence area for Sydney East [100.5 MHz]. Our preliminary research has shown that the potential number of listeners to the proposed 2RPH service is likely to be significantly lower than the potential number of listeners to the proposed QCMI service (Source: ABS and CERA). The obvious conclusion to be drawn from this is that the proposed GLBT community service is in a position to have a considerably greater positive impact on the community within the proposed service area.

QCMI is also concerned that should the allocation proceed with 2RPH, this may set a precedent for other AM broadcasters to make similar applications, essentially removing even more opportunities for aspirant broadcasters to access available spectrum and adequately serve their communities of interest.

Sydney community radio currently serves a wide and diverse range of different communities and groups, including ethnic, youth, indigenous, religious, special interest and print handicapped services. It is the strong belief of QCMI that the Queer or Gay and Lesbian community is in strong need of a community broadcasting service as it is arguably the only significant community that is not adequately catered for. We draw our confidence in this conclusion from Professor David Flint, then Chairman of the Australian Broadcast Authority who was quoted in an ABA media release on 25th May 2001 as saying “The ABA recognises that there is a substantial need for a service that addresses the needs and interests of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community”

From the ‘Report of the Australian Broadcasting Authority on the allocation of three Community Radio Broadcasting Licences to serve the Sydney area’ of May 2001, QCMI wishes to draw attention to the following extract in relation to the two Gay and Lesbian applicants Free FM and Out FM:

“This has been a difficult decision. Both applicants claiming to represent the gay and lesbian community presented strong applications and there is a high level of support within the community for a community broadcasting service, regardless of the provider." (Emphasis added)

As outlined above, it is the firm belief that the Sydney community is in need of a full time Queer or Gay and Lesbian broadcaster. We also believe that should such a service exist, a large and considerable positive impact would be made on the Sydney community at large. QCMI is confident that it has all necessary skills, expertise and capacity to operate such a service.
List of Appendices

Appendix 1 - Proposed Organisational Structure
Appendix 2 - Letter of support from Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations
Appendix 3 - Letter of support from The Gender Centre
Appendix 4 - Letter of support from Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service
Appendix 5 - Letter of support from Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby
Appendix 6 - Letter of support from Sydney Star Observer
Appendix 7 - Letter of support from Twenty10
September 18, 2006

To the Australian Communications and Media Authority

This letter is written in support of the application of Queer Community Media Inc (QCMI) for a broadcasting licence.

The Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO) is the peak non-government body representing the community-based response to HIV/AIDS in Australia. It is a not for profit organisation and its members include the AIDS Councils in each state and territory and three national organisations: the National Association of People Living With HIV/AIDS (NAPWA), the Scarlet Alliance - the national peak of sex worker organisations, and the Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL).

AFAO’s activities fall into three main areas: policy development, advocacy, and education. AFAO also has staff members dedicated to indigenous gay and transgender issues, international HIV/AIDS work, and HIV vaccines.

The effective delivery of health promotion campaigns is a central part of AFAO’s work. Good community media is essential to this, both as a vehicle for social marketing and as a provider of independent commentary upon the social and policy issues upon which such campaigns are based.

The King’s Cross/Darlinghurst area is a hub for gay, lesbian, transgender and intersex people, as well as for sex work and injecting drug use. Having a new medium for health promotion in this area would be most advantageous, and a dedicated radio station serving these populations would be valuable for HIV education purposes.

We urge you to look favorably upon the application of QCMI.

Yours faithfully

Bridget Haire
Media Officer, AFAO
13th September 06

To Whom It May Concern:

The Gender Centre is committed to developing and providing services and activities, which enhance the ability of people with gender issues to make informed choices.

We are committed in educating the public and providers about the needs of people with gender issues.

The Gender Centre is in full support of the submission made by QCMI in relation to allocation of a broadcast licence.

The GLBT community is currently one community that is not being served by a dedicated radio station and there is a sufficient and demonstrated need for such a service for this community.

Yours truly,

Mr Phinn Borg
Acting General Manager
The Gender centre Inc
Australian Communications and Media Authority  
PO Box Q500  
Queen Victoria Building NSW 1230

To whom it may concern

I am writing in support of Queer Community Media Inc (QCMI). QCMI is currently in the process of preparing a submission to the Australian Communications and Media Authority to seek allocation of an FM broadcast license to be used for a GLBT community radio station.

The Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service of NSW provides anonymous and confidential, volunteer based, telephone counselling, information, support and referral services to anyone in NSW needs support around GLBT issues. The GLCS has been providing these services since 1972.

The Sydney GLBT communities are not always best serviced by mainstream services.

Youth suicide is a major issue for young men and women with sexuality or gender issues. The availability of a GLBT radio station would also allow young people who need information about GLBT issues to be able to access such information anonymously and confidentially and allow GLBT persons to access services tailored to them, allowing normalization of their experience with regard to their sexuality and gender.

Gay Men are the major “at risk” group with regard to HIV/AIDS, as identified in the federal governments National HIV/AIDS strategy. NSW has around half the HIV-positive population in Australia. Sydney is also the capital city in Australia with the highest number of gay men per capita. The existence of a dedicated GLBT radio station would greatly assist awareness and education campaigns targeting gay men to be run via advertising on radio.

The GLCS supports the establishment of a dedicated GLBT radio service in Sydney and supports the Queer Community Media Inc submission for an FM broadcast license.

Faithfully

Tim Errington  
Secretary  
14 September 2006
Letter of Support

The Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby (GLRL) is the peak rights organisation in NSW that advocates for law reform for gays and lesbians through lobbying, community consultation and education.

The Sydney GLBT community has the largest membership in Australia and one of the largest in the world; however the lack of GLTB specific media, especially in regards to radio and television, makes it difficult to communicate effectively within the community.

Effective communication is especially important to minority groups in their ongoing struggle against an often discriminatory dominant culture. It is important at both a personal and community level that GLBT people feel they have an arena to communicate and connect with other GLBT people.

The GLRL would find a GLBT specific radio station particularly useful as a means to educate and inform the GLBT community about their legal rights and as a way of communicating and working with other GLBT community groups to achieve justice and equality for gay and lesbian people.

The NSW Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby therefore unequivocally supports the submission made by the Queer Community Media Inc to the Australian Communications and Media Authority seeking the allocation of an FM broadcast licence to be used for a GLBT community radio station.
15 September 2006

To Whom It May Concern,

This is a letter of support for Queer Community Media Incorporated’s submission to the Australian Communications and Media Authority to apply for allocation of an FM broadcast licence to be used for a GLBTQ community radio station.

SSO Media has been publishing Australia’s leading gay and lesbian newspaper, Sydney Star Observer for over 26 years. SSO Media plays a pivotal role in providing news to the GLBTQ community.

We believe that the development of a community radio station focusing on the needs of the GLBTQ community would be of great benefit to many members of our community, particularly the youth audience and GLBTQ people living in remote areas who do not have ready access to services available in metropolitan areas.

SSO Media wish Queer Community Media Incorporated every success in their application.

Andrew Bullen
Business Development Manager
SSO Media
02 8263 0553
andrew@ssonet.com.au

Publishers of:
Sydney Star Observer
fg
ssonet.com.au
Official Mardi Gras Season Guide
18th September 2006

To Whom It May Concern,

Letter in Support of Queer Community Media Inc.

It is with great pleasure that I write, on behalf of the Twenty Ten Association (Twenty10), to support the submission by Queer Community Media Inc. (QCMl) in relation to the allocation of a broadcasting license.

Twenty10 is a state-wide organisation that works with young GLBT people who are homeless, at risk of homelessness or experiencing other forms of marginalisation. This year we celebrate our 25th Year Anniversary. We are very proud to have played an active role in the GLBT community over this time and have earned the support of the community as a key welfare agency advocating for young people.

We can see great benefits in having specialised media outlets for the GLBT community. Currently, there is a lack of regular and accessible radio programs targeting the inner-city Sydney GLBT community. We are confident that QCMl will be able to deliver a crucial community media resource and look forward to working with them to ensure the participation of GLBT young people within their radio station.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about Twenty10 and our support of this submission.

Kind regards,

Meredith Turnbull
Executive Officer
Twenty Ten Association