

POLICY NO. POL04	COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION POLICY
Reference	CBAA Codes of Practice : Code 2 CBAA Codes of Practice : Code 3 ACMA Community Broadcasting Participation Guidelines

PURPOSE

This Policy sets out the high-level requirements to be followed for all matters associated with community participation in the operations of 4 FCR (FCFM).

BACKGROUND

4FCR Fraser Coast Community Radio Inc., trading as Fraser Coast FM 107.5 (FCFM), operates under a GENERAL broadcasting license issued by ACMA which governs:

- The operations of FCFM in providing a broadcasting service in Hervey Bay RA1; and
- The selection and provision of programs under the station's licence.

POLICY

The main purpose of FCFM is to provide a service to the community by providing entertainment, information, encouraging participation in community activities, and by building community spirit through the promotion on radio of community organisations and events.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

The station encourages participation by members of the community within the official broadcast area, including community groups and individuals.

This involves making the studio open to members of the community, both as individuals and as representatives of organisations. Community members may contribute to the station by, for example:

- Volunteering in a number of different roles
- Making programming proposals
- Contributing to programming
- Discussing policy development
- Being interviewed as a subject matter expert
- Becoming a Member or making a financial donation
- Requesting Community Service Announcements

FCFM will ensure the station meets the needs and interests of the local community by:

- Providing regular on-air announcements;
- Providing outside broadcasts engaging with the community;
- Providing training programs to equip volunteers in their involvement with the station;
- Providing access to information about FCFM through the website www.frasercoast.fm;
- Providing community service announcements and interviews to encourage regular participation of those in our broadcasting area;
- Seeking local press editorials as appropriate to raise awareness of FCFM in the community;
- Encouraging programming for new and under-represented areas of our community;
- Developing local partnerships and networks;

- Actively seeking opportunities to engage with local community groups.

FCFM sees itself as an active part of the community it serves, and sees the participation as being two-way. The station will continue to use a variety of ways to encourage participation in the wider operations of the organization:

- Through Open Days invitations members of the community are welcome to visit, may observe programs going to air, and may enjoy a guided tour of station premises.
- Members of the community will be encouraged to volunteer their services to FM 98.1 in whatever role is appropriate to their skills and interests.
- Membership will be open to all who apply and will be promoted annually via a Membership Drive.
- FCFM will take an active part in local events such as festivals, expos, local volunteer week activities, markets, special events.
- FCFM will engage with local groups and organisations, such as municipalities, business groups, community organisations, and use their contacts within other not-for-profit organisations to expand membership, station participation and mutual service provision.
- Providing volunteer presence/services for not for profit organisation events to increase awareness of the station.
- There will be no discrimination against persons on grounds of ethnicity, race, language, gender, sexuality, age, physical or mental ability, occupation, religious beliefs, cultural norms or political persuasion.
- The station encourages programming proposals from the community. Not-for-profit organisations and individuals may have access to free programming, such as community service announcements, interviews, occasional programs, regular programs or outside broadcasts.

PROGRAMMING PARTICIPATION

1. In any community, musical tastes vary widely. FCFM will provide a range of music-based programming to cater for these tastes. Interviews and other spoken word content will be included on a weekly basis across a range of programs.
2. In the evenings and over weekends, programming may cater to other musical tastes.
3. Evening programming may provide entertainment in other formats also, such as radio drama, pre-recorded interviews, podcasts or other spoken word content.
4. Programming content will not at any time express prejudice on the basis of ethnicity, race, language, gender, sexuality, age, physical or mental ability, occupation, religious beliefs, cultural norms or political persuasions.
7. Community programming will include but not be limited to content about:
 - Community organisations (not-for-profit)
 - Public institutions (community centres, museums, galleries, drama theatres etc)
 - Emergency services
 - Gardening and other special interest clubs
 - Local history and other local societies
 - Languages other than English
 - Local or national events and commemorations
 - Unsigned musicians and other artists
 - Youth organisations, issues and content.

8. The station will prioritise programming based on the needs of the community within the official broadcast area. These needs will be determined by analysing:
 - Feedback and requests to the station from the community
 - Perusing local media and other sources of information about the local community
 - Australian Bureau of Statistics data about the demographics of the population within the broadcast area
 - Knowledge about regular visitors to the broadcast area (tourists, workers, students, etc).
9. If community programming is to be spoken entirely by a community member and if the programming is to become ongoing, then the community member must become an accredited FCFM 107.5 presenter by successfully completing the station's training program.
10. Listeners and members will have the right to query policy and comment upon program quality and content and receive a considered and thoughtful response.
11. FCFM 107.5 will provide on air updates in emergencies, in conjunction with the appropriate authority/ies.
12. The content and tenor of all broadcasts must be approved by the Program Sub-Committee prior to broadcast. The content of all broadcasts must abide by:
 - The requirements within the Broadcasting Services Act (Commonwealth) 1992 and the ACMA Community Broadcasting Participation Guidelines
 - The Community Radio Broadcasting Codes of Practice of the Community Broadcasting Association of Australia
 - Station policies, procedures and standards regarding production, programming and content
 - Legal requirements regarding defamation, inappropriate discrimination, privacy and copyright.

POLICY ENDS