

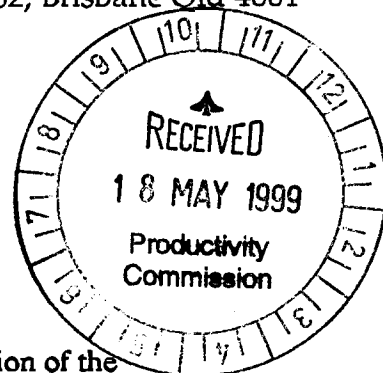
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Catholic Communications Office

17 May 1999

The Catholic Centre, 143 Edward Street, Brisbane
GPO Box 282, Brisbane Qld 4001

The Chairman
Broadcasting Inquiry
Productivity Commission
Locked Bag 2
Collins Street East
Melbourne Vic 8003



Dear Sir

I wish to submit the views of the Catholic Communications Commission of the Archdiocese of Brisbane on the "social, cultural, and economic dimensions of the public interest" in relation to the Productivity Commission's public hearings of a Review of Broadcasting Legislation in Australia.

The Commission would introduce another aspect of the Australian character to the discussion - the diversity and strength of Australian spirituality.

We would remind the Inquiry that the majority of Australians fall into the following categories.

- They are members of a religious denomination (whether or not they are regular churchgoers)
- They are spiritual people embracing a culturally diverse heritage
- They believe in a higher being (God)
- They aspire to a moral code of fairness and justice for all

It is therefore important that Australian broadcasting reflects the experiences of spirituality and faith beliefs of the majority of our population.

While there are a growing number of non-Christians in the Australian population, it is still true to say that many programs listed as being "religious" contain moral aspects which are supported by people of all denominations.

For this reason, it is important that broadcasters are encouraged to broadcast "religious segments". Broadcasting of certain religious events and matters of interest to people of different beliefs would surely help bind Australians together in their cultural, religious and spiritual diversity.

We are prepared to discuss our submission at your hearing on May 20 in Brisbane.

Yours faithfully

per Geoff Rodgers

Geoff Rodgers
Chairman
Catholic Communications Commission