

Sub no - 103

ID No - 1655

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TO : THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION

FAX NO : 9653 2305

DATE : 27 May 1999

FROM : JOE SANTANA

RE: : ENQUIRY INTO BROADCAST SERVICES ACT 1992 AND RELATED LEGISLATION

My apologies for this late submission, but having discussed this issue with my colleagues, they point out to me the importance of this enquiry and the fact that although I am only a small broadcaster / narrowcaster I should put my thoughts forward to you.

I presently own Melbourne Radio 1629AM broadcasting in Greek for the last three years. I also work with Rete Italia and set up 1629 Brisbane and Adelaide, 1620 ACT, 1611 Griffith and I am in the process of setting up 1620 Perth, 1629 Shepparton and Swan Hill, Port Pyrie and others to broadcast Italian programs via satellite. In Brisbane I have established a partnership with the Indian community broadcasting on 1701. All our radio programs are broadcast 24 hours a day, seven days a week. I also intend to develop other country frequencies in the 1611 - 1701 band along the lines of commercial / community stations with the idea of running the stations as a (sec 40) commercial venture providing alternative radio programs for the local communities in areas where sometimes alternative programs are not covered by commercial radio stations. I guess we are the corner store in radio competing with the big supermarkets and government SBS radio.

My main concern is, not at the present as we are happy and make a living paid for by the community by way of advertising and at the same time providing a service to inform and entertain without emphasising politics or religion, but in the future when digital comes into being I just hope that some comparative low power channels will be available to enable us to continue providing radio programs to our listeners Australia wide.

Yours sincerely

JOE SANTANA