



Pacific Islands Council of Qld Inc. Submission to the Review of Australian Broadcasting Services in the Asia Pacific

Background

This submission is made on behalf of Queensland Pacific Islands communities. The Pacific Islands Council of Qld Inc. (PICQ) is a non-profit umbrella organisation that represents the voice and views of Queensland based Pacific Island Nations' organizations and communities. It represents individuals and Pacific Islander community groups and supports collective development while encouraging communities including Maori people to maintain and promote their traditions, cultures and skills in Australia. PICQ is committed to developing strong partnerships with all levels of government, service providing organisations and the wider communities to improve the quality of life for its members so that Pacific Islanders, families and communities are able to properly establish their lives as participating members of the Australian society. PICQ membership consist of communities culturally affiliated to American Samoa, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Maori, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tahiti, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Formed in November 2008, there are over 3000 PICQ members and some run community radio programs for their languages through Community Radio 4EB in Brisbane. The group has a website, Instagram, twitter and Facebook following of over 900.

This submission is made in light of the importance of radio broadcasting services to the above-mentioned Pacific Islander communities, where information is transmitted through word of mouth, radio and social media. As part of this submission, PICQ met with groups such as Supporters of Broadcasting in Asia and the Pacific to discuss the review. PICQ stated the importance of radio broadcasting in Pacific Islander communities in Queensland and the need for Australian broadcasting services in the Pacific region especially in remote and rural islands. For most Pacific Island nations, radio broadcasting is still an essential communication tool that everyone is familiar with. Pacific Islanders are more inclined to get information through radio broadcasting than written news because traditions and cultures are passed on from generation to generation verbally.

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Pacific Islands Council of Qld Inc. supports and endorses the submission and recommendations made by Supporters of Broadcasting in Asia and the Pacific. In addition, this submission recommends:

1. The reinstatement of Australian broadcasting in all islands in the Pacific region, especially in those nations where the communities are remote and isolated. This initiative may assist the isolated communities during disasters.
2. Training program to include media personal in Australia travelling to countries and those in Asia Pacific nations coming to Australia. It would also be effective if the local Australian community broadcasting personalities (such as those currently doing radio broadcasting for various languages, example in Radio 4EB Samoan, etc) be involved in this training program to have partnerships with Australian local community radio services, Australian broadcasting services and Asia or Pacific broadcasters.
3. Content should include current affairs and development projects happening locally, in the region and internationally. Content of cultural and traditional stories from the islands be documented through this initiative.
4. Develop or reinstate radio broadcasting as a means for early warning for natural disasters.

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