Barwon Regional Community Media Association
Policy: Programming

94.7 The Pulse will encourage and enable programming that reflects our community of interest.

- Our programs will reflect the station's commitment to diversity, tolerance, and acceptance.
- We will produce programs in community languages as well as English
- We will encourage people of all ages and identities to make programs.
- Our content will reflect a range of views, interests, and musical preferences.
- Our content will prioritise material of local significance; content that resonates with the unique cultural, social, and economic characteristics of our community interest.
- We will always be mindful of the audience we serve.
- We will ensure our volunteers understand their legal responsibilities through initial and ongoing training

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide clear direction to all volunteers about presenting program content that is consistent with licensing requirements and The Pulse values.

Scope

This policy applies to all The Pulse staff and volunteers.

Program Guidelines

1. Indigenous Programming

- The Pulse acknowledges the unique status of Indigenous peoples as the first Australians and continually seeks ways to demonstrate respect for their cultures and customs.
- The Pulse will seek to involve and take advice from Indigenous Australians in the production of programs focusing on Indigenous Australians and issues. The Pulse will engage, consult and involve the Wadawurrung traditional owners where appropriate
- The Pulse will take care to verify and observe the best way to respect culture and customs by:

    - Considering regional differences, that is, be mindful of differences between Indigenous local groups,
    - Using appropriate words and phrases in referring to Indigenous peoples and their regional groups,
    - Seeking proper advice on how to best respect Indigenous bereavement customs when reporting on people who are recently deceased, and
    - Using suitable words and phrases when reporting on the social and emotional well- being of Indigenous people.

2. Music Content

We will endeavour to present a variety of music, including those genres which are not adequately served by other media, and which reflects the needs and diversity of our Community Interest.

In accordance with the Community Broadcasters Code of Practice, of all music programming, we must include a minimum of 25% Australian music content.

The Pulse will ensure it meets the minimum quota for Australian content using random audits conducted by the Programming sub-committee, and acting on any relevant findings.

We will play any music containing offensive language only after 10PM with an appropriate content warning

3. Privacy

We will not broadcast the words of an identifiable person or material that relates to a person's personal or private affairs or invades a person's privacy or intrudes into their private life, unless:

a) there is a clear public interest reason for the material to be broadcast; or

b) the person has provided informed consent, whether explicit or implicit, for the material to be broadcast (or in the case of a person under 16, defined as a 'child' for the purpose of this policy, a parent or guardian has given implicit or explicit consent).

We will exercise special care before using material relating to a child's personal or private affairs in the broadcast of a report of a sensitive matter concerning the child.

We will follow applicable privacy laws by respecting people's legitimate right to protection from unjustified use of material which is obtained without consent or through an invasion of privacy.

4. Emergency Information

The Pulse is not an official emergency services broadcaster. The Emergency Broadcasters in the area are the ABC 774 and 594 AM, KRock and Bay FM.

In the event of an emergency in the service area, when possible the administrative staff will remind broadcasters of their responsibilities to alert listeners that there is an emergency and to refer them to the official emergency broadcasters or to the Victorian

emergency service website: emergency.vic.gov.au and the VicEmergency app for full coverage of the incident. Broadcasters will not give detailed information themselves.

5. Content regulations

The codes of practice stipulate specific content that must not be broadcast This includes material that

- Sensationalises violence and brutality
- May mislead or alarm listeners by simulating news or events
- Presents as desirable the use of illegal drugs, the misuse of tobacco or alcohol or other harmful substances
- promotes or encourages harmful or excessive gambling;
- promotes gambling or gives gambling information (other than prevention or support information) or gambling live odds immediately before, during, or immediately after sporting events;
- is likely to be harmful to children, without giving reasonable warning;
- Glamorises, sensationalises, or presents suicide as a solution to life problems. Broadcast material will not include explicit details about the method and/or location of a suicide attempt or death.
- Promotes stereotyping and vilification. Presenters are to promote tolerance and acceptance, consistent with station values.
- is likely to incite or encourage, or present for their own sake, violence, or brutality;
- expresses, provokes, or perpetuates hatred, serious contempt or significant ridicule of any person or group of persons because of age, disability, mental ill-health, medical conditions, sex characteristics, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, race, nationality, culture, religion or being from a lower socio-economic community

Further, volunteer broadcasters must not broadcast

- Materials that compromise the privacy of organisations, businesses, or individuals
- Misleading, deceptive, or fraudulent content
- Defamatory or libellous material
- Unproven or unsupported accusations against individuals or organisations
- Vulgar, violent, hostile, or offensive material
- An announcement of the death of a person who is alive
- Any other content not considered to be within the accepted behavioural standards of 94.7 The Pulse

Presenters must always provide a content warning immediately before broadcasting any potentially offensive material or triggering content. The content and triggers warning document is in the training materials and in the studios.

When applying the regulations above, we will be guided by the context of the material. Material that is likely to cause harm and offence must be justified by context, and adequate protective measures provided. These regulations do not prevent the legitimate presentation of factual material, a fair report of, discussion or a fair comment on, a matter of public interest or material that is humorous, satirical, artistic or dramatic in nature. When assessing context, including in relation to the assessment of complaints, factors to be considered will include the nature of the content including its genre, subject matter and editorial purpose, and our community interest.

6. News and journalistic content

News and current affairs documentaries, feature programs and interviews will:

- Provide access to views not adequately represented by other broadcasting sectors
- Present factual material accurately and with impartiality, and ensure that reasonable efforts are made to correct substantial errors of fact as quickly as possible
- Represent viewpoints fairly without having a misleading emphasis, editing out of context or withholding relevant and available material.
- where practical, include the voices of those with relevant lived experience
- Clearly distinguish factual material from commentary, analysis, comedy, satire, or any other kind of fictional entertainment content
- exercise special care when reporting on contentious or controversial matters where facts may be contested and not settled and avoid the amplification of misinformation and disinformation; Misinformation is verifiably false, misleading, or deceptive information that has the potential to cause serious harm to the community and/or individuals, including disinformation, which is misinformation created and/or broadcast with malicious intent.
- ensure our journalists identify themselves and our organisation before proceeding with an interview;
- avoid or adequately disclose any conflict of interest
- Present news in such a way that it does not create public panic or unnecessary distress to reasonable listeners

7. Program Reviews

The Programming & Training (PAT) Sub-Committee oversees a process of program review.

The purpose of the review is to maintain and improve program quality.

It will provide an opportunity for feedback and discussion with the program makers. The discussion may include: opportunities for improvement in style and content, technical tips and suggestions for enhancing audience engagement.

The PAT subcommittee may also make recommendations for additional training or mentoring.

8. Breach of programming policy and broadcast standards

Any breach of this policy will be managed in accordance with the station's External Complaints Policy and if necessary, the discipline and dismissal procedure within the *Volunteering Policy.*

Owner:	BRCM Management Committee
Approver:	Barwon Regional Community Media Association Inc.
Review Date:	2028