

# Riverland Life FM – Programming Policy

*This Policy aims to ensure that the station complies with Community Radio Broadcasting Codes of Practice and provides content that is in keeping with the station's vision and values.*

## PROGRAMMING OBJECTIVES

- Programming that respects and demonstrates basic Christian beliefs and values,
- Serving a wide range of ages and interests in our community of interest, including programming suitable for families with young children and giving young people in particular access to the medium of radio for self-development, self-expression and educational purposes,
- Providing content of special interest and value to Christians, including faith-based talk and music,
- Providing access for Christian churches and groups to promote their activities in the community, and an avenue to offer their voluntary services to the wider community,
- Promoting unity and partnerships between and with Christian groups to facilitate communication and assist the local Church in its mission.

## COMMUNITY NEEDS

Riverland Life FM programming serves the needs of the Christian community and others who also want family-friendly radio and support the station's core values and philosophy. The preferred form of communication is everyday language that everyone can relate to and understand. Terminology with which *only* Christians are familiar is to be avoided. Also to be avoided is a focus on church sub-culture or views belonging exclusively to particular denominations. Christian programmes aimed specifically at Christian believers are generally scheduled for airing on Sundays.

## FAMILY FRIENDLY

We have a responsibility towards children. While not seeking to conceal the real world from children, programming practices will aim to protect them from harmful material (CBAA guidelines).

Programming aims to be positive, uplifting and relevant. We hope that our programming stands apart from commercial radio, as family friendly and family safe, with no danger of young or sensitive ears hearing bad language, coarse jokes or tasteless innuendo. Announcers have a responsibility in this area to be self-controlled and use words carefully.

We will not broadcast material that is likely to:

- stereotype, vilify, or incite hatred or the demeaning of any person or group,
- present as desirable the use of illegal drugs, or tobacco, or the abuse of alcohol or any other harmful substances,
- glamorise or in any way present suicide as a solution to any problem,
- mislead or alarm listeners by simulating news or events.

The provisions above are not intended to prevent factual reporting, or the expression of genuine opinion in news and current affairs programmes or material presented in the context of humorous or dramatic works.

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## PRIVACY

We have a responsibility to respect the privacy of individuals. Generally, if broadcasting the words of an identifiable person, or personal details about them, the intention to broadcast must be clearly indicated to the person concerned and their agreement must be received in advance (CBAA guidelines).

## MUSIC FORMAT

Riverland Life FM has a contemporary music format. Other types of programming, such as talk and chat shows and interviews are inter-dispersed with music. With the exception of outside broadcast's (OB's) such as Football Broadcasts, talk segments are generally short. The character of the music format, generally and its variations in specific timeslots, is to be respected. Announcers and programmers are required to be familiar with the general music format aims and the specific timeslot requirements as they relate to them. Any changes made to the schedule need to meet these requirements.

## COPYRIGHT

We have a responsibility to respect the intellectual property rights of artists and authors of materials we may wish to use. Plagiarism is to be avoided at all times. Sources of information used in broadcasts should be declared whenever they are used.

## CONSULTATIVE PROCESS

The Programming Director and all regular announcers and in-studio presenters together comprise the station's Programming Team. Announcers will contribute to decision-making with regard to new programming and music, provided that such contribution is informed by the needs of the target audience demographic. The Programming Director will make the final decision on content selected for airplay. The Board of Management is notified by the Station Manager of new programming for their review.

## Guidelines for Spoken-word Content

Shows, segments and other content aired across the station are selected on the following criteria:

- Is deemed to be relevant to some or all of our target audience (25-48 years)
- Has a positive message and does not contradict a Biblical Christian worldview
- Is interesting and informative and/or entertaining
- Contributes to variety in our programming

Programmes that are aired for their particular relevance to specific groups (eg children, Aboriginal people) will be given airplay at suitable timeslots and provided that:

- The interest group is consulted on the value of the content and/or participates in its production
- The content has a positive message and does not contradict a Biblical Christian worldview
- The content is relevant to the interest group

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## Guidelines for Music Content

Music aired across the station is selected on the following criteria:

- The format is CHR, Hot AC or AC
- A minimum of 25% of the music played is Australian
- 30-35% is Christian music
- Lyrics are 'family friendly', and do not contain crude language, overtly sexual or violent themes or promote a worldview that is contrary to a Christian perspective
- Lyrics do not promote alcohol abuse, drug or tobacco use
- Official videos promoting and performing the music is also 'family friendly' viewing

Specialised music (eg metal, hip hop) of particular interest to specific listener groups will be given airplay at selected timeslots deemed suitable to their listening habits and requirements, according to the latest feedback or survey results available.

## Programming Requests from the Community

Requests for air-time, word-based content or other programmes are directed to the Programming Director. Proposals for air-time are considered on the following criteria:

- Station Programme format
- Station programming objectives
- Programming areas currently well supplied or lacking (in station programming and across other local radio offerings generally)
- Time slots available and suitable for the proposed content
- Production time required
- Other staffing requirements
- Future Programming directions

The Board of Management is notified by the Station Manager of air-time requests and recommendations.

## Music Programming Proposals from the Community

Members of the community are welcome to submit music to the station. Requests are directed to the Programming Director, and are considered in consultation with the Programming Team.

Requests are considered in light of the criteria as listed above and on the following:

- Quality of recordings submitted
- Origin of recordings (local and Australian artists given special consideration)

In producing programmes relating to Aboriginal people we will seek the advice and/or participation of local Aboriginal people and Indigenous media agencies so as to respectfully and properly present this content.

The Board of Management is notified by the Station Manager of new programming proposals.

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## Monitoring of Content Delivery

The Programming Director will monitor the broadcast (playout logs) to ensure that:

- The Australian music content meets the minimum quota of 25%
- Christian music content is approximately 30-35%
- The general music format is consistent with the desired CHR/Hot AC/AC sound
- Sponsorship guidelines are followed at all times.

The Programming Director will conduct air checks to give feedback to announcers and to ensure that the station's standards in terms of family-friendly content, professional on-air conduct and good quality audio are being maintained.

## Codes of Practice Announcement

Riverland Life FM will broadcast at least one announcement each week that contains information about the Community Broadcasting Codes of Practice and where listeners can get a copy. The following script is used to meet the requirements of Code 1.7:

*What you hear on Community Radio is governed by the Community Radio Codes of Practice. The Codes of Practice cover matters relating to programme content, and the responsibilities associated with broadcasting to the community. They also cover aspects such as independence in management, and community involvement in providing the service. Copies of the Codes are available from the Community Broadcasting Association website, [cbaa.org.au](http://cbaa.org.au). For more information contact the station on 8584 6939.*

## Review of Policy

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Programming Director in consultation with the Programming Team. The Station Manager will report to the Board of Management any recommended changes. All changes to this policy will be ratified by the Board of Management before implementation.