



News Update

monitor and report to him on the operation of the anti-siphoning regime.

The report reviews what events have been acquired by free to air broadcasters and what coverage has been provided of those events. The report also examines whether there are grounds for adding events to the anti-siphoning list: 'We have not recommended any changes to the list at this point in time,' said Mr Webb.

'Within the scope of its monitoring function, the ABA has found that major sporting events remain available free to the public on commercial television, the ABC and SBS,' he said.

Issues examined in the report include:

- broadcast rights acquired by national and commercial television broadcasters,
- availability of broadcast rights to listed events,
- the extent to which listed events have been televised,
- requests to remove events from the anti-siphoning list, and
- possible amendments to the list.

Superhighway service providers need to consider the community

SYDNEY: While the information superhighway has great potential, there needs to be some assessment of the suitability of its content so children are protected, ABA Mr Peter Webb has said.

'It is becoming evident there is growing

community concern about the ability of the new technologies to distribute material which may offend or harm the general public, which in other areas is self regulated or regulated by the law,' Mr Webb said.

Speaking at the launch of *Media Law and Practice*, a publication designed to help the media and advertising industry stay informed about broadcasting regulation and the developments in communications and information technology, Mr Webb said one of the main issues in the convergence debate is the effect of new communications services on children.

'The Australian community, to its credit, is not particularly censorious — it is not inclined to ban things — but it also won't be trifled with when it comes to business behaviour which appear to threaten the well being of its children,' Mr Webb said.

He said what is needed is a balance between the benefits of the new technology and the need to protect children from harmful material.

'The community readily concedes the potential influence of television on children. In the case of developing services for the information superhighway, a degree of industry self examination about the nature and extent of similar influences seems warranted,' Mr Webb said.

Mr Webb also said new industries need to enter the community debate.

'I'll be surprised if we can't as a community, find ways and means of giving effect to sound social purposes that protect our children from harm, without unduly constraining the service industry that seeks to entertain and inform them.'

Programs granted C or P classification

Programs granted C or P classification by the ABA between 11 July 1995 and 14 August 1995. Producers interested in submitting programs for classification should contact Liz Gilchrist on (02) 334 7840.

Title	Origin	Clas.	New/ renewal	Decision date	Applicant
A*MAZING (Series 4 & 5)	Australia	C	new	16.7.1995	Southern Star Entertainment Pty Ltd
FOURWAYS FARM (Series 1 & 2)	UK	C	new	31.7.1995	Hit Entertainment UK
HERE'S HUMPHREY	Australia	P	new	31.7.1995	Banksia Productions Pty Ltd

CAD-C Australian drama, P - Preschool, C - Childrens