



**Commercial television licensees met their requirements of the Australian Content Standard (ACS) and Children's Television Standards (CTS) in 2003.**

## Subscription TV

cent of their total program expenditure on new Australian drama programs, and some drama expenditure by pass-through-providers has been nominated by more than one licensee carrying those services.


Under the subscription TV drama expenditure rules, each licensee of a subscription television drama service and each channel provider must lodge with the ABA, 60 days after the end of each financial year, an annual return providing details of their total program expenditure and expenditure on new Australian drama programs for the financial year.

An Australian drama program is new if, and only if, the whole or a substantial part of the program has not been televised in Australia or New Zealand on a broadcasting service at any time before the expenditure on the program by the licensee or channel provider is incurred.

If a channel provider supplies a channel that is televised on a subscription television drama service, the ten per cent expenditure requirement is based on expenditure incurred by the channel provider. If a channel provider (an Australian based company) supplies a channel that is televised on a

subscription television drama service and the 10 per cent expenditure requirement is not met for a particular financial year, the shortfall will have to be made up in the next financial year. The shortfall may be made-up by the channel provider, the licensee or the channel provider and the licensee.

If a licensee provides a subscription television drama service, expenditure on new Australian drama programs for each financial year must be at least 10 per cent of total program expenditure. Drama services provided by licensees are not afforded the opportunity to make-up any shortfalls in the following financial year.

If a pass-through provider (an overseas based company) supplies a channel that is televised on a subscription television drama service, the 10 per cent expenditure requirement is based on expenditure incurred by the licensee to obtain the service. If a pass-through provider supplies a channel that is televised on a subscription television drama service and the 10 per cent expenditure requirement is not met for a particular financial year, the shortfall will have to be made up in the next financial year. 

# Australian content and children's TV compliance: 2003

All commercial television licensees met the Australian transmission quota and program sub-quota requirements of the Australian Content Standard (ACS) and Children's Television Standards (CTS) in 2003.

All commercial networks exceeded the minimum 55 per cent Australian transmission quota in 2003, with the Nine Network licensees achieving more than 60 per cent in the three metropolitan markets of Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane.

'It is pleasing to see that commercial television licensees exceeded the ABA's requirements for Australian programming,' said Professor Flint. 'The results for 2003 demonstrate that the networks continue to provide Australian audiences with high levels of Australian content, from familiar long running drama programs and children's series to the scheduling of a mix of new mini-series, telemovies and feature films.'

This is the first year of the operation of the varied ACS that came into effect after an extensive review of the standard by the ABA in 2001-02.

The compliance results for 2003 are available on the ABA's web site at [www.aba.gov.au](http://www.aba.gov.au)

### Australian and children's programs requirements

The Australian Content Standard and Children's Television Standards for commercial television require that:

- Australian programs must be at least 55 per cent of all programming broadcast in a year by a licensee between 6 am and midnight
- *annual drama requirement* – the drama scores for all first release Australian drama programs broadcast by a licensee in prime time in any year must total at least 250
- *three year drama requirement* – the drama scores for all first release Australian drama programs broadcast by a licensee in prime time in



- the three years 2002–05 must total at least 830
- a licensee must broadcast at least 20 hours of first release Australian documentary programs
- a licensee must broadcast at least 260 hours of children's (C) programs each year
- a licensee must broadcast at least 130 hours of first release Australian (C) programs (50 per cent of total C requirement) each year
- *annual requirement, C drama* – a licensee must broadcast at least 25 hours of first release Australian children's drama programs each year
- *three year requirement, C drama* – a licensee must broadcast in each three-year period at least 96 hours of first release Australian children's drama
- a licensee must broadcast each year in the C band at least 8 hours of repeat Australian C drama programs and
- a licensee must broadcast at least 130 hours of Australian preschool (P) programs each year.

Quota	Australian programs	Australian drama	Australian documentary	Australian children's C drama	Australian children's C programs	Children's C programs	Australian preschool P programs
run measure	all % 6am–12mn	first release (total annual score)	first release (total annual hours)	first release (total annual hours) repeat (total annual hours)	first release (total annual hours—includes C drama)	all (total annual hours—all C programs)	all (total annual hours)
Minimum annual requirement	55%	250	20 hours	25 hours* 8 hours	130 hours	260 hours	130 hours
	hrs	score					
<b>Seven licensees</b>							
ATN Sydney	56.41	225.00	20.00	33.95	70.00	263.95	130.50
HSV Melbourne	57.40	224.00	23.00	33.95	70.00	263.95	130.50
BTQ Brisbane	57.07	225.00	22.00	33.95	70.00	263.95	130.50
SAS Adelaide	58.61	223.00	26.00	33.95	70.00	263.95	130.50
TWV Perth	57.97	225.00	22.00	33.95	70.00	263.95	130.50
<b>Nine licensees</b>							
TCN Sydney	63.05	104.50	298.80	32.00	71.50	266.83	130.50
GTV Melbourne	62.40	104.50	298.80	32.00	71.50	267.33	130.50
QTQ Brisbane	65.22	104.50	298.80	32.00	71.50	268.33	130.50
<b>Ten licensees</b>							
TEN Sydney	56.49	204.92	400.68	31.00	53.50	260.50	130.50
ATV Melbourne	57.15	204.92	400.68	31.00	53.50	260.50	130.50
TVQ Brisbane	56.70	204.92	400.68	31.00	53.50	260.50	130.50
ADS Adelaide	57.08	204.92	400.68	31.00	53.50	260.50	130.50
NEW Perth	57.35	204.92	400.68	31.00	53.50	260.50	130.50