



Deepwater & District Community FM Radio Inc.

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Glen Innes 105.9 MHz, Deepwater 91.1 MHz

Community Participation Policy (Code 2.1)

Adopted by Committee of Management 18/1/15, Amended 15/10/18, 19/2/2024

Associated Policies: Community Engagement Policy

Background

2CBD is required to have an adopted policy under Code 2.1 of the “Community Radio Broadcasting Codes of Practice” which sets out the means to encourage community participation in the provision of the service.

Policy

Station Presenters

Our community radio will be much better placed to reach community expectations in terms of program diversity as identified within the Station Programming Policy if there are sufficient presenters to cover all preferred local content shifts. A full field of presenters with the addition of “on demand” presenters gives a better capacity for presenter leave.

Additional presenters also increase the potential field of volunteers with skill sets matching gaps within the ability of the station to function to the optimum level.

2CBD will actively encourage members of the community to take an interest in being a volunteer presenter. Mentor training is provided to ensure the whole training experience is free of stress and in fact a great deal of fun. Prior to being approved for the probationary three month period, the intending presenter will be invited to work through a list of Key Competencies together with a basic introduction to the Key Station Policies,

Presenter training

2CBD supports two approaches to training of presenters. The first and most often practiced is mentor training where potential presenter volunteers can progressively learn the necessary skills from at least two current presenters over a period of time that is comfortable to them.

The second training option is the more formal “Pathways Training” offered by the Community Media Training Organisation” (CMTO). This training is conducted locally in our own well-equipped 2CBD hall in Church Street, Glen Innes. Recent shared training hosted by the Armidale Community Radio Station had some good reviews from our local participants.

2CBD actively encourages anyone with an interest to participate in both these training options. The team development approach is key plank in our volunteer organizational structure.

Attendance at public events

2CBD has a “Festivals and Events” policy which sets out the level of promotion and participation at local shows and festivals. A component of this policy provides for attendance at the event and also setting up and operating our outside broadcast unit. 2CBD produces various promotional information for distribution to the public. At this stage, 2CBD has not implemented a fundraising component as these events are already overtaxed with fundraising and further demands on the spare coins of the public can be counter-productive. Fundraising for specific benefits has shown the best results.

The new studio mixers provide for telephone calls to be put live to air. This system will be utilized at events where appropriate.

Community Announcements

Community announcements are seen as being a core function for the station. This role ties the station closer to the community and thus places 2CBD in a better position to gain community participation.

Administration

2CBD has acquired and developed the Radio Centre buildings at 131 Church Street, Glen Innes. This new center is quite close to the town CBD and will make it much easier for members of the public to drop in. The intention had been to provide public access to the station administration, initially on Monday mornings with a view to expand this arrangement to other weekday mornings. It is recognised that access to the 2CBD administration office would give 2CBD much greater exposure to the local and travelling public and therefore further enhance community participation.

Committee of Management

The Committee of Management meets every third Monday night of the month at the 2CBD hall in Church Street. The public can attend these meetings by prior arrangement and the committee welcomes members of the public to come along and put their views to the committee.

Sub-Committees

The Committee of Management have two sub-committees, being: the Program Committee and the Presenters Committee. The opportunity exists for the membership of the Program Committee to include interested members of the community. An arrangement involving non-members would require a policy revision. Community members continue to be invited to participate in the Program Committee deliberations. Currently, the Focus Groups offer the

best opportunity for community input.

Focus Groups

2CBD conducts Focus Group Forums from time to time to gauge the views from listeners about programming and general station operations. A Focus Group Forum is planned for pre-winter 2024 after the current workload subsides.

Web Site

A new web site continues to be operational. The new site will encourage community participation in feedback to the Committee of Management and the sub-committees in the decision process.

Facebook Site

A 2CBD Facebook page is maintained to provide an additional communication avenue.

Newsletters

2CBD has produced newsletters from time to time and it is planned to formalize the process in producing two newsletters per year. The bulk of the newsletter distribution is via bulk e-mail and interested people are invited to have their e-mail address included.

E-mail advices

Apart from the newsletter process bulk e-mail advices are sent out to our membership and supporters where a reasonably significant event is to occur at 2CBD.

Other capacity for community consultation and Engagement

The Committee of Management has endorsed a number of avenues for the general public to express their views about station programming and the general direction taken by 2CBD. 2CBD will monitor the effectiveness of the current range of measures and consider any new options that might arise.