

## B. COMMUNITY RADIO AND GOVERNMENT

Community radio and government are interconnected in a variety of ways.

The Australian Federal Government oversees the legal framework: the *Broadcast Services Act 1992* and the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA), which create and administer licencing and Codes of Practice.

Across the sector, almost 15 per cent of community radio's funding comes from government, primarily via the federally funded Community Broadcasting Foundation, but also by local, state and federal government grants.

See overleaf for a diagram of how these two aspects work.

### How community radio can help politicians

- A direct connection to local community members or special interest groups, via regular on-air appearances.
- Opportunities to listen to what members of the community care about and are interested in.
- Reporting on politicians' activities in the community and parliament on air.
- Connection to a collaborative rather than combative media landscape.

### How politicians can help community radio

- Being an advocate for the importance of community radio in parliament and within their party.
- Formally acknowledging the work done by stations and station milestones: via correspondence and speeches, motions, etc. in the chamber.
- Appearing in commercial media outlets alongside community radio stations.
- Helping out with station fundraising: speaking at events, recording promotions, helping station managers make new contacts.

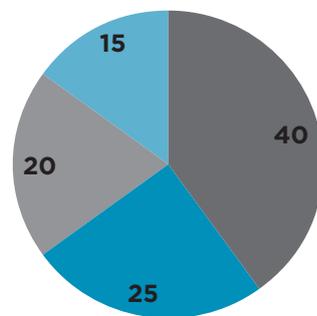
### FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS

Key provisions in the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* require community broadcasters to:

- provide community broadcasting services for the benefit of the community and not operate them to make a profit,
- only broadcast sponsorship announcements, rather than advertising, which total no more than five minutes in any hour of broadcasting.

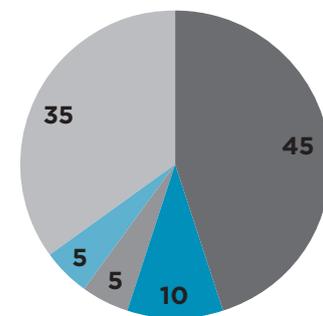
### INCOME VERSUS EXPENDITURE

Station income sources (%)



- Sponsorship
- Grants
- Subscribers and donors
- Others

Station expenditure (%)



- Salaries and wages
- Transmission
- Studio/production equipment
- Copyright and licence fees
- Other

\* Source: Community Broadcasting Station Census: Survey of the Community Radio Sector for the 2011-12 Financial Year, December 2013.

**By far the most important relationship between community radio and government is the role that community radio can play in facilitating the relationship between the community and the people who are elected to represent them.**

# FUNDING AND LEGAL REQUIREMENTS: HOW IT WORKS

