

Standards for RPH Programming on Community Radio

About RPH Australia and Radio Reading programming

RPH Australia (RPHA) is the peak body for the [Radio Reading Network](#), a national co-operative of community radio services dedicated to providing access to information for the estimated five million Australians with a print disability. We champion the rights of all people to access printed material, empowering equal participation in cultural, political and social life. RPH Australia is managed by the Community Broadcasting Association of Australia (CBA).

RPH Radio Reading programmes are unique broadcast services aimed at meeting the information needs of people with a print disability; those who are unable to effectively access printed material due to visual, physical or cognitive disability, age or low literacy.

Objectives of the RPH Programming Standards

The Standards establish a framework for the production of RPH programming by **community radio stations with a non-RPH broadcast licence**. They apply to any program produced by these stations, in the name of RPH, to serve people with a print disability. RPH licensed stations adhere to a different set of standards – the [Protocol for RPH Broadcasting 2016](#) (PDF, 48KB).

The Standards aim to encourage new, diverse, quality, local programming made by and for people with a print disability and contain:

- [Programming Standards](#) – criteria outlining what RPH programs should contain and how programs should be produced and broadcast; and
- [Community consultation and engagement Standards](#) – criteria to ensure RPH programs are relevant and accessible, to best serve people with a print disability.

Community stations outside the broadcast 'footprint' of an RPH licensed radio service can apply for Community Broadcasting Foundation (CBF) [Content funding](#) to support local RPH programming. As part of that grant application, stations must sign a Memorandum of Understanding with RPH Australia agreeing to follow these Standards.

Adhering to the RPH Programming Standards is a condition of:

- **accessing CBF funding for RPH programming; and**
- **participating in RPH Australia's [National Sponsorship Scheme](#).**

RPH Australia is the owner of these Standards and the governing authority for determining whether stations are following them when producing and broadcasting their Radio Reading programming. It may amend or update the Standards in consultation with community broadcasters and members of the print disability community via a biennial review process.

RPH Programming Standards

The RPH Programming Standards ensure fidelity, faithfulness and reliability to source materials, so that the programme can be considered a faithful and honest representation of the material it broadcasts. For programming/broadcasting to be considered 'RPH', these Standards must be followed:

RPH programming must be:

- produced locally by the radio station and/or independent program producers. Re-broadcast of national RPH programming is not eligible for CBF funding.
- broadcast on a community radio station in program blocks of at least 30 minutes between the hours of 6.00 a.m. and midnight.

Music (except program themes), sponsorship announcements and other program material not specific to the needs of people with a print disability should not be included when calculating 'RPH time'.

RPH programming can be:

- reading of news and feature articles from daily, and other general circulation newspapers.
- subject-based programs that feature readings in an identified topic area - from newspapers, magazines, and other publications, including from reliable sources on the internet.
- interviews, presentations and other features that relate to subjects that are of particular relevance to an audience with a print disability.

Copyright

RPH Radio Reading programs using printed materials are different from other radio content in that the publications must be read in full. Radio Reading programming provides an accurate and complete record of the original source and therefore stations holding an 'RPH' licence to serve the needs of people with print disability enjoy a special status within the [Copyright Act](#). However, **stations with a general community broadcasting licence do not enjoy this status and so must have approval from publishers** before reading their print material on-air. This can be in the form of an agreement covering a single work or an entire publication (for example a local newspaper) under agreed conditions.

To comply with Copyright regulations, RPH programming using printed materials must follow these Standards:

- All source materials must be read in full.
- The text cannot be varied or abbreviated in any way.
- No editorial comment can be made.
- Programs must correctly state the title of the publication, edition, date of publication, page number, and author's name.

These are two circumstances when programs can depart from these requirements:

- A reader might need to vary the text to deal with obvious printing or grammatical errors.
- At the end of a program or program segment a reader may need to abbreviate an article because they've run out of time.

Program producers departing from the copyright requirements should use their judgement and common sense and always consider the listeners who rely on them for equal access to the information they are providing.

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Community consultation and engagement standards

These Standards aim to ensure station engagement and consultation with people with a print disability to ensure RPH programs are relevant and accessible.

Community stations and RPH program producers should ensure that they:

- **Engage in a process of ongoing consultation with:**

- Listeners with a print disability;
- Organisations of people with a print disability; and
- Organisations that provide services to people with a print disability.

- **Provide access to organisations of or providing services to people with a print disability.** The station retains the right to ensure that all material broadcast conforms with quality, legislative, and legal requirements.

- **Try to involve local people with a print disability in program production.**

- **Follow the [Community Broadcasting Codes of Practice](#).**

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Resources and links

CBF Content grants for [Specialist Radio Programming](#)
[Radio Reading Resources](#)

Contact us

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