

Rhema Central Coast Community Participation Policy

Background

Gosford Christian Broadcasters Ltd (GCB) sees itself as an active participant in the community it serves. Its main purpose is to provide a service to the community, not only through providing entertainment, education and emergency information but also to build community spirit through the on-air promotion of community organisations and their activities. GCB is always open to participation by members of the community both as individuals and as representatives of community organisations.

GCB is required under its broadcasting licence and through its adherence to the Community Broadcasting Codes of Practice to ensure that the organization meets or exceeds its requirements to:

- Encourage members of the community they serve to participate in the operations of the licensee in providing the service and the selection of and provision of programs under the licence (Community Participation Requirement) and
- Continue to represent the community interest they represented at the time their licence was allocated or last renewed (Community Representation Requirement)

GCB's Community Interest

Community Interest officially stated on our broadcasting service licence certificate is "Christian".

Aim / Purpose of this Policy

GCB is committed to a totally open and non-discriminatory policy in regard to membership, participation and programming.

Membership and participation can only be rejected or revoked under the most extreme circumstances and only after an exhaustive, open and transparent process.

This policy states how we ensure community participation in practice.

Policy

As a community-based, volunteer-run, not for profit association, GCB relies on members of the community for its ongoing operation, administration and on-air programming.

Through transparent governance:

1. GCB will regularly seek to increase its level of community participation in all operations.
2. GCB will articulate and develop the strategies it uses to encourage community participation in the station's operations and in the selection and provision of programming.
3. GCB will encourage individuals and families living in our listening area to become members of GCB and invite them to fully participate in all aspects of the station's operation and broadcast.
4. GCB will encourage local community groups to become members of GCB and invite them to fully participate in all aspects of the station's operation and broadcast.
5. GCB will ensure that it meets the needs and interests of the local community in the following ways:
 - a. provide regular on-air announcements encouraging new members
 - b. provide training programs to equip potential volunteers in their involvement in the station
 - c. provide access to information about GCB through our website, Facebook page and through involvement in local community events to raise awareness of GCB in the community
 - d. provide community service announcements about local activities and interviews with local people to encourage regular participation of those in our broadcasting area
 - e. provide opportunities for local people to be involved in producing quality programs for their peers and the whole community
 - f. seek opportunities to engage with local community groups
 - g. seek funding to broaden GCB's scope in delivering services to the communities we serve
6. GCB will aim to have a Board of Directors that has the expertise to adequately govern the company
7. GCB will continue its efforts to maintain existing sponsors and develop new sponsors
8. GCB will encourage our membership to seek nomination to our Board of Directors and sub-committees.
9. GCB will encourage presenters who use social media to promote their shows to their peers as well as on GCB's Facebook page.