



# PROGRAM POLICY

## 1. Introduction

At Ellenbrook Community Radio (Inc) trading as Radio VCA88.5FM (Radio VCA88.5FM) we aim to meet community expectations for content safeguards and follow the guidelines of the Community Broadcast Association of Australia (CBAA) 2025 Codes of Practice when broadcasting programs on Radio VCA88.5FM. Radio VCA88.5FM's programming is to provide positive entertainment and to inform and update our community.

## 2. Purpose

The purpose of this **Program Policy** (Policy) is to establish guidelines for the members, presenters and listening public of Radio VCA88.5FM. The program content of Radio VCA88.5FM aims to appeal to the broader community while keeping adequate space for specialty tastes and needs including First Nations engagement and will engage with our community to ensure our programming decisions best reflect and serve the community interest that we represent.

## 3. Scope of Policy

This Policy also aims to establish parameters and outline the expected programming choices of Radio VCA88.5FM.

- We recognise our legal obligation to ensure that obscene, offensive, or inappropriate material is not broadcast.
- We broadcast to a broad community and welcome programs from the diverse groups of people from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds within our community.
- We encourage and assist people in our community, including those who are not adequately served by other media, to participate in providing our service, prioritising the discussion topics by those with relevant lived experience.
- Our reporting of news and journalistic content is based on principles of independence, transparency, accuracy and fairness. Clear guidelines are in the CBAA Codes of Practice 2025.
- We play a critical role in providing emergency warnings, vital health alerts and other emergency information. The Management Committee will give clear guidelines to all presenters as and when any emergency information is to be broadcast.
- We support and nurture the Australian music industry and provide opportunities for local artists to showcase their work.
- We recognise our obligation to Australian music and will broadcast at least 25% Australian music in all programming. The requirements are calculated as a percentage of all music played over a calendar month.
- We will broadcast an on-air announcement at least once a week that contains information about the Codes, a short description of matters covered by the Codes and where listeners can get a copy.

A copy of the Codes will also be made accessible via our website.

## **Material not suitable for Broadcast**

### **We will not**

- Simulate news or events in such a way that is likely to mislead or alarm listeners.
- Present as desirable the use of illegal drugs, the misuse of tobacco or alcohol as well as other harmful substances
- Promote or encourage harmful or excessive gambling
- Promote gambling, gambling information (other than prevention or support information) or gambling live odds immediately before, during, or immediately after sporting events.
- Broadcast material that is likely to be harmful to children, without giving reasonable warning.
- Present suicide as a solution to problems or broadcast details about suicide like method or location.
- Broadcast material that is likely to incite or encourage, or present for their own sake, violence, or brutality.
- Broadcast material that expresses, provokes, or perpetuates hatred, serious contempt or significant ridicule or any person or group of persons because of age, disability, mental ill-health, medical conditions, sex characteristics, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, race, nationality, culture, religion or being from a lower socio-economic community.

### **Context**

The above is guided by the context of the material. Material that is likely to cause harm and offence must be justified by context, and adequate protective measures provided. When Radio VCA88.5FM assesses the context, including in relation to the assessment of complaints, factors to be considered will include the nature of the content including its genre, subject matter and editorial purpose, and our community interest.

### **Privacy**

We will not broadcast the words of an identifiable person or material that relates to a person's personal or private affairs or invades a person's privacy or intrudes into their private life, unless:

- There is a clear public interest reason for the material to be broadcast and only after written is granted by the Management Committee.
- The person has provided informed consent, whether explicit or implicit, for the material to be broadcast (or in the case of a person under 16, a parent or guardian has given implicit or explicit consent).
- We will exercise special care before using material relating to a child's personal or private affairs in the broadcast of a report of a sensitive matter concerning the child.

This Policy applies to:

- Members, presenters and the listening public of Radio VCA88.5FM.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies, available on Radio VCA88.5FM's website:

- Presenter Conduct & Participation Policy
- Discrimination, Harassment & Bullying Policy
- Diversity Policy
- Complaints Management Policy & Procedures
- CBAA Codes of Practice

#### 4. Consequences of Breaching this Policy

Breaches of this Policy may result in disciplinary action being taken up to and including termination of membership. Behaviour may also be reported to the relevant authorities where considered appropriate.

#### 5. Policy Owner & Version Control

<b>Policy Owner</b>	Ellenbrook Community Radio (Inc) t/a Radio VCA88.5FM: Secretary
<b>Next Review Date</b>	This Policy will be reviewed annually or following significant changes in legislation or station operations.
<b>Endorsed By</b>	

<b>Version</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Date Approved</b>	<b>Description/Sections Modified</b>
V2	Adopted	13 October 2025	Final Version