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FREE TV NETWORKS EXCEED AUSTRALIAN CONTENT QUOTAS

Figures released today by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (the ACMA) show Free TV broadcasters continue to exceed their required levels of Australian content.

In 2013 commercial television broadcasters surpassed their primary channel content quotas, averaging 64.3 per cent across the networks. Broadcasters also screened more than double the amount of content required on their multi-channels.

Free TV Chairman Harold Mitchell AC said: "The ACMA figures demonstrate commercial free-to-air broadcasters' commitment to producing high quality home-grown content that Australian viewers love to watch."

In 2013 every one of the top 50 programs on Free TV was Australian and in FY12-13 commercial free-to-air broadcasters invested \$1.36 billion in Australian content.

"Free TV remains the leading underwriter of Australian programming, despite increasing competition from companies that don't produce any local content whatsoever, and in some cases don't even pay their fair share of taxes in Australia," Mr Mitchell concluded.

For media enquiries contact Free TV Australia on (02) 8968 7100

About commercial television broadcasters' content obligations

The *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* (BSA) requires commercial television broadcasting licensees, in each calendar year, to provide Australian programs on their core/primary television services for 55 per cent of the time between 6am and midnight. In addition, on multi-channels, the BSA requires that licensees must transmit 730 hours of Australian programs between 6am and midnight in the 2013 calendar year, increasing to 1,095 hours in 2014, and 1,460 in 2015 and beyond. Under the Broadcasting Services (Australian Content) Standard 2005 (Australian Content Standard), the ACMA stipulates minimum sub-quotas of first-release content for Australian (adult) drama, documentary and children's programs. In each calendar year, a licensee must provide 20 hours of documentary, 25 hours of children's drama and 250 points of adult drama, with points being calculated with regard to genre format (series, mini-series, telemovie) and duration. The Australian Content Standard also provides triennial quotas for drama and children's drama, which are set above the accumulative yearly requirements. The ACMA also administers the Children's Television Standards 2009, which require commercial television broadcasting licensees to provide 260 hours of Children's classified programs and 130 hours of Preschool children's classified programs at designated times across a year. In order for programs to count towards a licensee's quota obligations, the programs must first be classified by the ACMA as either 'C' or 'P' programs prior to broadcast. Following legislative amendment in 2013, the ACMA standards can be satisfied across a licensee's television broadcasting services (that is, across main and multi-channels).

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