

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Background

Kiewa Valley Community Radio Inc. (Alpine FM) is required under its broadcasting licence and through its adherence to the Community Broadcasting Codes of Practice to meet its community interest.

Alpine FM's community interest is categorised as 'general' on its broadcasting service licence certificate. In meeting its community interest, Alpine FM will provide informative and entertaining community broadcasting with the aim of satisfying a wide divergence of community taste.

Alpine FM is required to operate as a not for profit community association and to undertake all measures necessary to provide a radio broadcasting service to encourage, enable and facilitate communication within the community by operating and developing community media activities serving the general population. Alpine FM will:

1. Enable and facilitate communication within the community by broadcasting programs dealing with local issues, events, culture and activities.
2. Provide the opportunity for community groups and related associations, organisations and individuals to be involved in the production and presentation of original programs.

Alpine FM is an Official Emergency Broadcaster for the Kiewa Valley from Mount Beauty to Dederang, the Ovens Valley from Bright to Porepunkah and for Falls Creek. Our service is available via livestream into Harrietville, where there is presently no ability for the community to receive our transmission. Station management has made efforts to engage with the authorities on whose site we could erect a new transmitter. This work is ongoing and in the meantime, we are committed to providing emergency warnings to the Harrietville community when issued.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that Alpine FM includes mechanisms to effectively engage with and represent its community of interest and to enable active participation by its community in station management, programming and general operations. This policy states how we put community participation into practice.

Diversity, Access and Inclusion

We are committed to supporting diversity, inclusion and accessibility as outlined in our Strategic Plan 2024 - 2029. Our commitment is to demonstrably encourage participation, inclusion and equity for all people in our community with a focus on

women, young people, First Nations Australians, multicultural, disability, LGBTQIA+, faith-based and regional and remote communities.

Policy

As a community-based, volunteer-run, not-for-profit association, Alpine FM relies on members of the community for its ongoing operation, administration and on-air programming. Through transparent governance:

1. Alpine FM will regularly seek to increase its level of community participation in all its operations.
2. Alpine FM 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. Alpine FM will encourage individuals and families living in and visiting our listening area to become members of Alpine FM and invite them to fully participate in all aspects of the station's operation and broadcast.
4. Alpine FM will encourage all local community groups to become members of Alpine FM and invite them to fully participate in all aspects of the station's operation and broadcast.
5. Alpine FM will be committed to an open and non-discriminatory policy regarding membership and participation. Membership can only be revoked under the most extreme circumstances. If a membership is revoked, all members have the right of appeal as outlined in the grievance measures detailed in Alpine FM's constitution.
6. Alpine FM 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 Alpine FM through our website, Facebook page, local newspapers and social media to raise awareness of Alpine FM 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 youth to be involved in producing quality programs for their peers and the whole community.

Note: Those under 18 require supervision by a responsible adult when on Alpine FM premises.

- f. provide opportunities for our older residents to be involved in producing quality programs for their peers and the whole community
 - g. seek to involve and take advice from our Indigenous community in the production of programs focusing on Indigenous Australians and issues
 - h. maintain partnership with the Alpine Shire Council in its role as owner of the premises and site occupied by Alpine FM and as a key stakeholder in our community interest
 - i. develop and maintain effective working relationships with control agencies in our role as official emergency broadcaster in our broadcasting area
 - j. seek opportunities to engage with other local community groups
 - k. seek funding to broaden Alpine FM's scope in delivering services to the communities we serve
 - l. provide opportunities for Alpine FM members to take part in areas of interest indicated on their application for membership.
 - m. undertake community partnering arrangements where there is a mutual benefit to serve the community interest, increase community participation and raise the profile of Alpine FM as a community asset.
7. Alpine FM will aim to have a Committee of Management that has the expertise to adequately govern the association.
 8. Alpine FM will continue its efforts to maintain existing sponsors and develop new sponsors.
 9. Alpine FM will encourage our membership to seek nomination to our Committee of Management and Subcommittees.
 10. Alpine FM will encourage presenters who use social media to promote their shows to their peers as well as on Alpine FM's website & Facebook page.
 11. Alpine FM will ensure all its life members, sponsors and donors are acknowledged on the Alpine FM website.

Related documents

- ACMA Community Broadcasting Participation Guidelines:
<https://www.acma.gov.au/sites/default/files/2019-12/Community%20Broadcasting%20Participation%20Guidelines%20-%20Print%20enabled.pdf>
- Kiewa Valley Community Radio Association Inc. Constitution and Rules:
<https://www.alpinefm.org.au/about/policies-procedures/>
- Alpine FM Membership Policy
- Alpine FM Volunteering Policy

- Alpine FM Disciplinary Action and Dismissal of Volunteers

Policy updates

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Version 2.0	19 August 2024	Linda Parkinson
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