

RTRFM Policy 004

Programming and Presenting

Policy Statement – Freedom of Expression, Censorship and Editorial Control

We will attempt to avoid censorship where possible. However, in our programming decisions we will consider our community interest, context, degree of explicitness, the possibility of alarming the listener, the potential for distress or shock, prevailing Indigenous laws or community standards and the social importance of the broadcast.

We will adhere with the [Community Radio Broadcasting Codes of Practice](#), specifically Code 4: Material Not Suitable for Broadcast. To quote Code 4.1, this means we will not:

- a) simulate news or events in such a way that is likely to mislead or alarm listeners;
- b) present as desirable the use of illegal drugs, the misuse of tobacco or alcohol as well as other harmful substances;
- c) promote or encourage harmful or excessive gambling;
- d) promote gambling, gambling information (other than prevention or support information) or gambling live odds immediately before, during, or immediately after sporting events;
- e) broadcast material that is likely to be harmful to children, without giving reasonable warning;
- f) present suicide as a solution to problems or broadcast details about suicide like method or location;
- g) broadcast material that is likely to incite or encourage, or present for their own sake, violence, or brutality; or
- h) broadcast material that expresses, provokes, or perpetuates hatred, serious contempt or significant ridicule of 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.

The application of the above Code 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. Code 4.1 does not prevent the legitimate presentation of factual material, a fair report of, discussion or a fair comment on, a matter of public interest or material that is humorous, satirical, artistic or dramatic in nature. When assessing 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.

We will follow applicable privacy laws by:

- a) respecting people's legitimate right to protection from unjustified use of material which is obtained without consent or through an invasion of privacy,
- b) only broadcasting the words of an identifiable person where:
 - I. that person has been told in advance that the words may be broadcast, or
 - II. it was clearly indicated at the time the recording was made that the material would be broadcast, or
 - III. In the case of words that have been recorded without the knowledge of a person, that person has indicated his/her agreement prior to broadcast.

This policy statement was approved by the General Manager and RTRFM Board in February 2026.