

TAKE TIME

A lifelong learning radio and internet initiative

Progress Report – 1 October 2006



Take Time has now been in production for some 18 months, since its beginnings back in February 2005, when my aim was - as a PBA FM volunteer – simply to present a weekly program of mostly music with an occasional interview. Since that first program, in which I interviewed Louise Bywaters from the Leadership Practice in SA about her then recent educational visit to Vietnam and Cambodia, I have been encouraged by the many colleagues and listeners who have shown an interest in the program.

In the program, I now aim to do several things. Firstly to produce a good listenable and informative program each week for listeners to PBA FM. We broadcast twice each week (Mondays at 8:30pm and a repeat broadcast at 9am Fridays) with an estimated audience of 15,000.

It is also my aim to interest a small number of other community radio stations in this radio and internet lifelong learning project. This is beginning to happen, although precise details are now being gathered by the Community Broadcasting Association of Australia in Sydney – the CBAA manages the Community Radio satellite service from their premises in the Sydney suburb of Alexandria. I have come to know of some stations in NSW, Victoria and Tasmania now taking the program each week. We hope to be more precise on participating stations in the early months of 2007. One interstate station has now contributed an item to Take Time – Terry Post from City Park Radio in Launceston. Many thanks Terry.

In June 2005, the Take Time website was launched, and thanks to the dedication and expertise of Canberra colleague Barbara Champion, who has maintained the site each week since then, there is now an excellent record of the many items broadcast in Take Time in these 18 months, as well as a growing collection of audio and some text based resource materials. See www.taketimeradio.com and especially the Online Resources section and the category headings, and the monthly content summaries under Archives.

In this context, the goal is to develop the Take Time website into a learning resource for both the schools and for the adult and community learning sectors, as well as for individual learners. Content comes in two main strands – items featuring the scope and importance of adult learning in action across Australia, and also items in various subject categories – including health, science, media, literature and social history – which can be utilized in schools and or in community learning. I also aim to present a number of interviews that can serve as professional development springboards – for example for teachers.

Recent funded initiatives have demonstrated the potential for this – see details of **Seven Minute Legal – Come and Live with Us Mum** (funded through the Law Foundation of South Australia) and the two projects funded through the ACE and Community Partnerships Unit of the SA Department of Further Education Employment Science and Technology – **Learn @ Work** (for Adult Learners Week 2005) and **Learning Journeys** (for Adult Learners Week 2006). With funded projects, a CD containing all programs is sent to some 18 community radio stations around South Australia, for possible inclusion in their broadcast schedules. PBA FM and Take Time have now gained a further significant grant from the SA Department of Health for an initiative in early 2007 – as they say, stay tuned!

None of this would be possible without the sponsorship and support of Adult Learning Australia. In addition to covering studio and related broadcast costs, support from ALA have enabled me to visit Melbourne, Geelong, Canberra, Sydney and Brisbane in recent months, thus ensuring that a number of

interstate items are included in the program. The support of the ALA Board, and of CEO Ron Anderson and also of Communications Manager Peter Murphy is very much appreciated.

Several other organization provide support through regular publicity for Take Time – included are the Australian College of Educators in Canberra, as well as the SA Branch of the College, and the Community and Neighbourhood Houses and Centres Association of SA (CANH) and of course the ACE and Community partnerships Unit of DFEEST.

I would like to sincerely acknowledge the support of and enthusiasm for this project by both the Management Committee of PBA FM, and Station Manager Denise Guest. Without them, this project would not have been possible.

There is another benefit of this project nationally. Most of the people I interview have not had the experience of being interviewed for radio. In this non-threatening and supportive environment, many educators in the school sector and in adult education have had their first experience of a recorded radio interview, and a number of others have gone live to air. The value of this media training aspect was confirmed during a recent media awareness workshop I ran in Adelaide, through the SA Department of Further Education Employment Science and Technology in the lead-up to Adult Learners Week 2006.

Why is this initiative being pursued at this time? As many of my readers will know, I have worked in education and in broadcasting for all of my career. My radio production days commenced many years ago, but it is the internet, and the links between community learning and the radio medium that most interest me right now. Although still part of most people's lives every day, radio remains an ephemeral medium. Through radio, we can reach many audiences; by value-adding, particularly by providing text-based support and audiofiles online in mp3 format (and hopefully soon, podcasting as well), most of the Take Time radio interviews will have a much longer life through the internet, thus providing learning resources for use in many educational contexts.

While there are few Fact Sheets available at present, the structure is there when further funding becomes available, to further develop online text to complement and extend the material now becoming available as audiofiles. The new health-related project for early 2007 will provide an ideal opportunity to develop some comprehensive Fact Sheets to complement the online audiofiles.

Take Time may well be Australia's only dedicated radio program about education, as well as providing a growing range of online resource material under several subject categories. It is my hope that this structure and model will be extended in the next few years to capitalize on the strengths of the medium of radio in conjunction with the limitless potential of the internet for lifelong learning.



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