



Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee
the council of Australia's university presidents

screenrights

The Audio-Visual Copyright Society

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Screenrights signs five year deal with Australian universities

Screenrights and the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee yesterday signed a new educational licence agreement under the provisions of the Australian Copyright Act covering the copying and communication of broadcast material by universities for their educational purposes.

The agreement provides that the AVCC members will pay a royalty to copyright owners for educational copying and communication of broadcast material, such as radio and television, guaranteeing income to Screenrights members from this sector. Screenrights Chief Executive Simon Lake said he was delighted with the conclusion of the new agreement.

"It demonstrates the excellent relationship developed over the years between Screenrights and the universities," Mr Lake said. "This relationship ensures that the educators who want to use audio-visual material have ready access to this resource. It also benefits the people who make the programs used by educators by providing payment for this use of their work."

"We are committed to a long-term relationship of mutual respect," Mr Lake said. "This relationship benefits our members by providing an important source of income for them. We look forward to continuing to work closely with the universities in meeting both their audio-visual needs and in securing payment for our members."

John Mullarvey, AVCC's Chief Executive Officer, said that the licence will take effect on 1 January 2005 after the existing agreement expires at the end of this year.

"We are pleased to enter into this new agreement with Screenrights which will extend to 2009 and will cover all 38 members of the AVCC," he said.

"Under the agreement the universities will be able to copy and communicate broadcast material without needing to get the prior permissions of copyright owners. The universities have agreed to a fixed annual royalty adjusted for CPI, and to participate in sampling processes to determine whose material is being used by the universities so that the copyright owners can be paid.

"This is a major benefit for the universities who will be able to concentrate on their teaching and learning activities in the knowledge that copyright is being observed and copyright owners are being compensated.

"We look forward to working closely with Screenrights over the next 5 years to ensure that the agreement maintains a balance between the interests of copyright owners and users."

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