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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### ABC VISIT TO ALICE SPRINGS

ABC Friends National congratulates Justin Milne, the ABC Board Chair, for asserting his recent leadership by holding his first board meeting in Alice Springs to demonstrate his commitment to regional Australia.

It is a significant decision because this meeting coincides with the ABC's 85th Birthday at a time when the national broadcaster has been under attack for being too Sydney-centric.

Alice Springs is a welcome departure from so many capital city venues and offers an important message to all Australians that the ABC wants to reach out to people wherever they live.

The location is especially significant given a previous ABC Board decision to cut short wave services in the Northern Territory, removing access for many communities and alienating our Pacific neighbours.

ABC Board members overwhelmingly have urban backgrounds, so hopefully even a few days in Australia's centre will alert them to the need for more considerate and creative policy development.

In addition, the Board will be holding its first Community Forum where Territorians will have the opportunity to voice their priorities for the national broadcaster.

The fact that Q&A will also be broadcast live from Alice Springs is another sign that regional Australia can expect long overdue recognition.

ABC Friends will be represented in Alice Springs by National Vice President Mal Hewitt and Executive Committee Member Sue Pinnock



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