Station update

Hi Everyone

The good news is that a variety of new platforms will hopefully make doing shows even easier and from anywhere and will have long term benefits for us all. It will require a bit of experimentation, but we can share and learn from each other’s experiences. Already the shift to conducting interviews over the computer rather than the phone in the studios is resulting in much higher quality audio.

Whether radio stations are considered a workplace and exempt from the new two person gathering rule differs in each state. It appears that in SA we are currently considered a workplace and exempt. However, we are implementing a few changes since the last communication. So for now…

* We *all* need to prepare and learn how to work remotely even if you’re not doing it in the short term. More about how to do that below…
* Definitely no more than 2 people in the studio
* No more than 2 people at the computer work stations at any one time.
* Please try not to come in if you’re over 70 or 50 for Indigenous people, immune compromised or a carer for anyone in the above groups

**Do you volunteer in more than one community station?**

The SA Community Broadcasting Association (SACBA) has recommended all stations ensure the safety of the SA community radio sector and its volunteers by preventing people from physically volunteering in more than one station. If you also volunteer at another station please call me on 0411 955 765 to talk through options.

**Studio 2 is now the on air studio**

* It’s bigger and people can maintain physical distancing better
* You don’t have to touch that stupid pole to get to the panel
* You don’t have to squeeze past the previous presenter or co-host to get behind the desk

The downside is there is no laptop in studio2 because I can’t find the key to unchain the current one from studio1. It may require bolt cutters.

So you will need to bring your own laptop or device if you use that.

**Cleaning, headphones and mic socks**

I highly advise

* Cleaning your headphones after every use as its almost impossible to put them on at the start and off at the end with completely clean hands and because the cords are touching the desk.
* Using scrap paper and the street mags and flyers at reception to put down on the desk and any surface you want to put your belongings on. Lay it on the desk in front of where you are sitting so that your arms are not touching the desk.
* Buy your own mic sock and wash and dry them yourself. You can order a Rode Podcaster Mic for $17 each from Derringers. It’s a rip off I know.

There is a system for having clean mic socks in Production 1 thanks to Zoe Kounadis and Tom Mann from Breakfast and myself.

* Please take one to use but make sure they are **BONE DRY!**
* We will **DESTROY** microphones if they are even slightly damp. We cant’ afford to replace them.
* Do not use a mic without a mic sock.
* When you have finished your show take your mic sock off and put in the white bucket in the kitchen for cleaning.

**Making your programs remotely**

Checkout this great webinar by the CMTO

[Technorama Tuesdays | Everyone Remote: Technical Distancing - Community Media Training Organisation](https://cmto.org.au/latest/845-technorama-tuesdays-everyone-remote-technical-distancing.html)

Or short cut by reading Elizabeth Handsley’s (*Jazz* and *Up Down Under*) [notes from the webinar.](http://radioadelaide.org.au/elizabethjhandsleys_webinarnotes/)

**Getting your sound right**

**Levels levels levels!**

Recording remotely and through different inputs means we need to be extra vigilant about levels and especially comparative volume.

It’s important for you, and to advise any of your interviewees and co-hosts to:

* + Make sure there is no background noise washing machines, barking dogs, kids etc
	+ Find a flat sounding environment (the wardrobe is good – shiny walls are bad)
	+ Use a decent mic if possible. Join the Technorama facebook - they have lots of conversations about the best mics to use and hundreds of eager tech types eager to answer any question.
	+ Mute anyone not talking

**Option 1 – Record mic breaks and insert music into a single file**

Record your program as 44100 16 bit .wav or a 320 Mp3 file

* A free option for recording and editing is Audacity. It’s very similar to Adobe Audition which you can rent on a month per month basis.
* Another low cost option is Hindenburg.
* Mac users – garage band works well but has a limit on the size of a single file. So recording whole shows doesn’t work well on garage band. Add the narrator filter on the file for a richer sound.
* The voice recorder on iphones are good for recording mic breaks and short interviews

Thanks to John Burke from the Jazz team for sharing his notes on [recording from home.](http://radioadelaide.org.au/johnburkes_-homerecording_101/)

Send your file to me via Wetransfer a day before your show. It’s much harder for me to schedule on the day.

**Option 2 – Record mic breaks and access DAD playlists & music library**

For DAD music library users only.

We can now remotely access the library and create playlists via Anydesk.com

So far Festival City and The Range have successfully mastered this.

Call me if you want to find out more about this option.

**Option 3 – One studio operator and remote co-hosts**

An alternative to having multiple people in the studio is

* one person presents in the studio
* the other person (or multiple team members) can co-present via the computer/laptop or phone line but the computer has better quality.
* Plug your device into the desk via the connector cord and turn on the laptop channel.
* Check your volume output on your device is up otherwise the levels will be too low no matter how high you push up the fader

You can use Zoom, Skype, Google Hangouts, Messenger to include multiple people in the conversation. There are lots of online tutorials for each of these <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/206618765-Zoom-Video-Tutorials>

**Recording interviews and voice breaks using a portable recorder**

Sarah Martin has recorded this video on using a zoom or edirol for recording phone interviews

[https://1drv.ms/v/s!Amw\_3YsgwagW0mM6xQCOu3cFwP3X](https://1drv.ms/v/s%21Amw_3YsgwagW0mM6xQCOu3cFwP3X%22%20%5Co%20%22https%3A//1drv.ms/v/s%21Amw_3YsgwagW0mM6xQCOu3cFwP3X%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

**Recording interviews over the computer**

Recommendations are Zencastr, Cleanfeed or Zoom, Skype, Google Hangouts but there’s more options but start with these.

Interviewees can be added in and out of a group chat which enables 3+ way conversations between all presenters and interviewees.

Again it’s important for all participants to

* + make sure there is no background noise
	+ find a flat sounding environment (the wardrobe is good – shiny walls are bad)
* use a decent mic if possible

**Recording interviews on iphones using Tapeacall**

It is always important to remember to ask permission *before* you start recording. It’s against privacy law to record people without them knowing it. So always ask the question before you hit record.

Thanks to Naomi Hunter from Festival City for notes on how she’s [used this successfully.](http://radioadelaide.org.au/guide_recording_using_tapeacall/)

These notes are all on the [radioadelaide.org.au/resources](http://radioadelaide.org.au/resources/) page on the website

If you are having success with other processes and technologies please post a guide to what you’re doing to our Radio Adelaide station worker Facebook group or send to me. It will be good to have some station discussions and peer mentoring around this. It’s a steep learning curve for us all but will hopefully have long term benefits and will enable us to keep producing great radio and connect with our community.

If you have any questions, please call me on my mobile 0411 955 765.

Keep smiling

Ciao for now

Nikki