

Orana voices step closer to airwaves

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A GROUP that wants to deliver a Dubbo community radio station has had a councillor turn up the volume on its bid.

Orana Broadcasters was on track to receive only one-quarter of the start-up funds it applied for from Dubbo City Council until the intervention of council's finance and policy committee.

At the prompting of Councillor Ben Shields the committee recommended granting the group \$1000, which became a resolution of the council this week.

Orana Broadcasters' funding application was one of 23 the council received in the latest round of its 2011/2012 Financial Assistance Program.

Groups asked for more than \$43,000 in total but the package is usually a biannual pot of \$10,000.

Community services director David Dwyer recommended approving 22 applications for varying figures totaling \$10,000 but most only received a portion of what they sought.

Cr Shields moved at the committee meeting the council increase the allocation to Orana Broadcasters to \$1000 so it could purchase public liability insurance.

Cr Shields said Orana Broadcasters had put forward a good business case.



Orana Broadcasters president David Bennett and executive member Bob Lloyd.

The council had also noted in its management plan that Dubbo lacked a community radio station, the councillor said.

"It would be so valuable to the community," he said. "We should take this and run with it."

Cr Tina Reynolds seconded the motion while Cr Richard Mutton also supported increasing the grant to Orana Broadcasters.

Community radio stations were in operation at Gilgandra, Dunedoo and Wellington, he said.

Then Cr Shields declared a non-

pecuniary, less-than-significant interest.

He owned two radio stations, one at Orange and one at Wagga Wagga, but had no interest in Dubbo, he said.

Councillors then carried the recommendation unanimously.

Cr Shields's actions took Orana Broadcasters from being the recipient of the lowest to the highest grant.

Creston College, which runs the Dubbo Service Project in the Apollo Estate for teenage girls, will receive \$750, while 14 other applicants will receive grants of \$500.