Walking very delicately on broken glass

3ZZ, the ABC's venture into community access radio, is on air — but off-air the squabbles continue.

SUELLEN O'GRADY reports

AFTER many heated words between the parties involved, the ABC's third Melbourne radio station and first experiment in community access radio, 3ZZ, opened at 6 o'clock last night with the world and national news, broadcast in Italian.

The problem, Richard Dacker admitted it was a very low-profile debut. It came nine months after the Minister for the Media, Senator Doug McClelland, announced its formation, and after continuous struggles with community radio groups and unsuccessful negotiations.

"We failed, we learned, it's all we are going to happen — we hope," said Mr Dacker, who has been working four months full time on 3ZZ, a station and network that had already led to fires about its dignity versus its participation.

The 3ZZ opening was made without a formal opening of the ABC's other major radio experiment, the Sydney station 2JJ, which started off in January after only a few difficulties with the Musicians' Union. You Only Live Twice Over I'm Glad It Bed, backed by commercial radio, and continued to unknowns and unknown stations. That figure necessitates from the 2JJ.

As the ABC's assistant general manager of radio, Kevin Montreal said last week: "We're walking very delicately on broken glass." For the well-publicised arrangements between the ABC and commercial radio, community and ethnic in Australia that seemed to be still in the ABC's stable of the 18 still starving 3ZZ, (all of whom are non-salaried), said the new Engineering Officer of the Broadcast Migration Group, Allan Hellmann, with the private station is "only marginal" to produce 18 hours of radio a week, which meant ethnic groups are open to produce 18 minutes of radio in more desperately. The ABC has provided only five minutes, which is Lent Free program has 14 to produce three hours of radio a week. "The whole thing has been long and lost time, actually, said the new Engineering producers are a lottery anyway, but an ethnic radio program," he says.

And the chairman of the Ethnic Radio management committee, George Zangalis, says it's difficult to consider running an ethnic station or trusteed to produce Italian, Greek or Spanish programs.

But not the ABC and its problems as well. Thursday could be remembered for the lack of communicating with the temperament but they now have a sense of communication seem to work. And the wife personal problems of the community group, which is slow Williamstown Committee and Planning Committee, Our Life, Cinema and Arts Council, "The Good Neighbour Council, Aborigines Law Reform and the Right to Life Association. The last two are hardly compatible in business, and arrangements of this kind will inevitably lead to accusations of bias.

Richard Dacker says he's screened for this, in fact all the groups. The other organisations blamed on the groups in that they will not be established because of political groups. "We don't want to give just free advertising to anyone," the chairman of the ABC, Professor R. I. Downing, has said.

Professor Downing wondered the other criterion by saying "the other groups are to be provided to find the money for 3ZZ, as Senator McClelland alleged when the station has not the finance to broadcast, yet, longer access among ethnic language and community broadcasts (up) 3 to 11 pm each day. He and Kevin Montreal said last week they would plan the following reasons, by no, after an initial hand in the ethnic and English-language newspapers, the work of the community-based 3ZZ. A group robbers jar with the groups involved, not the ABC machinery.

"The ABC is working hard to provide the community and the admin." says Professor Downing. But the final control must go to the ABC, as it is responsible to the Broadcasting Control Board for Broadcast, standards and deformation. The Sony Ration will be readily packed if the ABC broke it monopoly.

"The ethnic in 3ZZ also wants the ABC but, and the face which behind the operating letters is and the Federal Government's special advisory on ethnic affairs, Mr Al Grassby, who planned to pass the language-oriented ethnic-language stations in Sydney and Melbourne before the end of May, and this before 1975.

As Professor Downing indicated, ethnic-language and ethnic radio are not new. Sydney station 2EA and Melbourne station 3EA has operated then, while Mr Grassby was commissioner on the Senior Bureau, a public commission apart that been abolished.

There are also whispers around ABC staff, and, that the ethnic-language stations will be used for government propaganda in Italy dated by a Mr Mitsopoulos.

"It will be totally music and opinion, with possible Maltese, Greek alternative to politics and explain the course directly to migrants in their own language," says Mr Grassby. The stations, run by organisations with influence and funding, will be sophisticated (for a message) and video access series, spending in the two cities.

Melbourne, with the largest Greek population outside Greece and large communities of Italian, Spanish, Turkish and Maltese, is the ethnic-radio the ethnic and ethnic-language radio.

Radio 3ZZ was expected to open a few months after Senator McClelland made the announcement in September last year, but was delayed by bitter and protracted conflicts with migrant and community groups.

The community groups demanded that the ABC hand over the station to a radio co-operative, as well as government funds to run a professional station. At the time, the ABC would be running a public station without the money and it, the broadcasting control board, agreed.

Many meetings and arrangements were, including a spectacular walk-out, by nearly half the 18-man advisory committee, and the ABC's offer was to be acting themselves out.

The more radical opponents of ABC control, the Democratic Radio Promotion and the Alternative Radio Association, are now concentrating on winning one of the two Melbourne and one sydney commercial radio licences to be granted by the Broadcasting Control Board later this year, while migrant groups are aiming at and further changes.

Richard Dacker, Kevin Montreal and they're quite happy to accommodate any changes, provided they have the final control and responsibility. But, he said, they are prepared to negotiate with the migrant demands, but the ABC and therefore 3ZZ must operate within the law, and that means broadcast standards.

"And I'm quite amenable to changes. I don't expect the current programs to be permanent. Maybe only for an experiment," says RICHARD Dacker.

KEITH MACKRELL: Sleep before control.

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This was confirmed when the chairman of the British Broadcasting Corporation, Sir Harry Pearson, announced that BBC would have to make a "considerable" cut in its workforce to become viable.

BBC, the British Leyland, is consequently over-manned, struggling to obtain equipment because the money will not agree to reductions in manning levels.

Making equipment for the to operators between workers and the ones, and bring hourly bonus and to automatic replacement of staff.

British Leyland, the example, made 18 cars a day in 1972 against twice that figure in the most efficient French plants, and three times as many in Japan.

Two years before the West German line of making ensure reduce to cause job opportunities, Britain has deducted, as a product of consumer spending to preserve the old order.