

From: Jackie Russell on behalf of [ACMA Customer Service Centre](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: ACMA [REDACTED] - Re allocation of deceased amateur radio operator call sign [REDACTED] [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Date: Thursday, 8 January 2015 3:38:29 PM

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your e-mail dated 5 January 2015.

According to our records the correct procedure was followed in relation to the re-allocation of your late father's call sign.

The ACMA was advised of you father's passing via a returned renewal slip in August 2011.

The ACMA followed the procedure of notifying the WIA and placing the call sign [REDACTED] on a reserve list for a period of 2 years.

The current owner of call sign [REDACTED] applied for the call sign through the correct methods in October 2014; well after it was released to the available call sign list.

The ACMA acknowledges your sentimental connection to the call sign but is not in a position to reverse this allocation.

Regards,

Jackie Russell
Licensing Officer
Radiocommunications Licensing & Assignments Section
Operations & Services Branch

Australian Communications and Media Authority
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----- Original Message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Received: 4/01/2015 10:25 PM
To: ACMA Customer Service Centre; System Contact
Subject: Re allocation of deceased amateur radio operator call sign
To whom it may concern
Australian Communication and Media Authority

Dear Sir/Madam

Re – Reallocation of deceased radio amateur's call sign

Particularly [REDACTED] - allocated to [REDACTED]

I have a concern about the supposed reallocation of my late father's call sign.

My father was [REDACTED] [REDACTED], who died in June 2011 [REDACTED]

I was recently devastated and shocked to learn, at a social function, that according to [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]) he had 'got' my father's former call sign [REDACTED] – [REDACTED] as he termed it. I was utterly stunned to hear of this as I was totally unaware that this possibility existed.

I have been in touch with the WIA; my email and their response is below. Until I received it, I was quite ignorant about call signs being reallocated at all. Nor did our family even think that we had to notify the WIA or the ACMA of an amateur's death. Someone outside our family obviously did this.

The email from the WIA states, *'it is the policy of the ACMA not to issue a call sign for two years after the expiry of the licence of a deceased amateur, with the partner, next of kin or executor of a deceased amateur able to request the release of the call sign during that period to another amateur radio licensee'*.

If this is the case, there was no communication, information, or notification sent or given to any next of kin, or executor of my father's estate advising us of this situation. Not from the WIA which appears to be the 'managing' body, nor from the ACMA which has responsibility for matters relating to (radio)-communications. I am certain of this as I was receiving all mail sent to my father's address from the time of his death until at least June 2013.

The email from the WIA does not confirm that my father's call sign has been reallocated. I would like to know if this is so.

I have perused both the ACMA and WIA websites and found the amount of information somewhat overwhelming.

Accordingly, I submit the following:

- I am extremely upset that the [REDACTED] call sign could be reallocated to someone (viz [REDACTED]) living in the same town and a member of the same radio club ([REDACTED]) as my late father who held that call sign for over 60 years. My father was instrumental in helping many young people to further their interest in amateur radio and a number are now mature age members of that club.
- Amateur radio was my father's lifelong passion. He gained great pleasure from the challenges it presented in building his own transmitters, receivers; aerials and other equipment; from his many successes in working new countries and gaining specific awards; and from the many friends he made through his numerous phone contacts. It seems inconceivable that someone else could be allocated my father's call sign given his reputation and outstanding achievements in the realm of amateur radio. It could almost be seen as a form of 'identity theft'.
- Despite the statement from the WIA, that amateur call signs are not an entity in themselves, they do identify a person. This could be seen by the number of letters of condolence that we received from amateurs world wide as my father's death became known internationally. I am still in contact with overseas amateurs who knew and remember my father and his achievements. Ham operators tend to introduce themselves as e.g. 'Joe Blow, VK5JOBLO' a personal identity, not that of a pile of equipment.
- As next of kin, and also as an executor of my father's estate, which has still not been completely 'wound up', my family and I feel very disappointed that we were not contacted, notified, or advised of the circumstances surrounding the reissuing of his call sign following his death.
- No third party has the authority to act on our behalf or to claim any knowledge of my father's affairs and intentions in the matter of the disposal of any of his radio equipment or call sign.

In view of the above information I suggest that consideration be giving to the following.

- If the call sign [REDACTED] has been reallocated I request that allocation be revoked on the grounds that we have been denied due process as per ACMA policy regarding the reissuing of the call sign of a deceased amateur.
- I request that the call sign [REDACTED] not be re-issued at this time nor included in any ballot for call signs until I and my family have received appropriate formal notification and information regarding the reissuing of call signs from the ACMA.
- I suggest the ACMA review and implement suitable mechanisms for the notification of their processes to the family and executors of deceased amateurs.
- I suggest that the period before a call sign can be reissued be extended from two years to five years to ensure all relevant parties are made aware of the circumstances surrounding ACMA policy in the matter and can take action accordingly.
- I further suggest that considerable sensitivity be used in the re-issuing of call signs, particularly if they identify amateurs of long standing or those who have made significant achievements in amateur radio.

I trust that your department will give this matter serious and favourable consideration in view of the information I have presented.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

21/12/2014

Hello [REDACTED]

I'm sorry to hear of your fathers passing, and I can understand your concerns about the reissuing of his amateur call sign.

The WIA manages Amateur Radio call signs under an arrangement with the ACMA, which in turn is responsible for administering and enforcing the Radiocommunications Act.

Call signs are not an "entity" in their own right, and only exist only with valid station licence, so a call sign is not allocated permanently to any particular person or organisation.

The current ACMA policy is to not re-issue a call sign for two years after the expiry of the licence of a deceased amateur, with the partner, next of kin or executor of a deceased amateur able to request the release of the call sign during that period to another amateur radio licensee.

Information about call signs is placed on the WIA website at:

<http://www.wia.org.au/licenses/licensing/guidetocallsigns/documents/Complete%20Guide%20to%20Call%20Signs%20Rev%201.pdf>

I'm sorry this is probably not the answer you are looking for, but if you feel that the current policy is not appropriate you should

direct your concerns directly to the ACMA, as the WIA must apply ACMA policy.

Regards
Phil Wait

TO THE WIA – 21 Dec 2014

Dear Sir

Re the call sign [REDACTED] identifying [REDACTED]

I heard only yesterday (Dec 20 2014) that my father's radio call sign, [REDACTED] has been reallocated to the former [REDACTED]. I was stunned to say the least, as it was my understanding that such things did not happen. My expectation is that a call sign identifies a particular person and always would remain so.

My father died in 2011 and was an amateur of some standing, not only in Australia, but throughout the world. Amateur radio was his lifelong passion and gave him much pleasure in the challenges it presented and the friendships he made world wide. It grieves me deeply to think that someone else should now have his call sign.

My family and I are most upset about this matter, even though the person claiming to now have the call sign is personally known to us and informed me of it.

Would you kindly confirm whether or not this claim is accurate? If so, I express my extreme displeasure to the Institute that something which uniquely identified my father in the radio world might now identify someone else.

On the other hand, I would be happy to stand corrected if this claim is not accurate and I have misunderstood the information.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]