



MEDIA RELEASE



ARN LAUNCHES NEW INDUSTRY-LEADING BROADCAST STUDIOS

**QUEENSLAND PREMIER, ANNASTACIA PALASZCZUK
OFFICIALLY OPENS NEW 97.3FM & 4KQ HEADQUARTERS**

**ARN BRISBANE STUDIOS DELIVER STATE-OF-THE-ART
ENHANCED LISTENING EXPERIENCE**

Friday 21st June 2019 – On Thursday night, ARN celebrated the highly-anticipated **launch** of **Brisbane 97.3FM and 4KQ's** new industry-leading **radio broadcast studios** with an exclusive **housewarming party**. Close to 120 guests were in attendance, including **Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk** who officially opened the new studios.

Based in the vibrant Kings Row precinct in the inner Brisbane suburb of Milton, guests included **staff, special VIP guests, clients, media partners** and **other industry friends** who enjoyed celebratory drinks along with sweeping Brisbane CBD and river views.

A sensational **live music performance** by Brisbane musician **Steven Childs** also entertained guests at the launch on the night.

The event celebrations were the culmination of months of hard work from the ARN team who, in late May, **relocated over 70 staff** from the network's previous Stones Corner studios to one of Brisbane's premier commercial precincts, just 1.5 kilometres from the CBD.



The team spent a total of nine months planning and facilitating the move, with **ARN leading the way as the first Australian commercial radio broadcaster** to build audio production facilities with a **perfect balance of Production and Broadcast technology** – utilising Dante digital audio integrated with Broadcast Livewire for premium radio content creation. The broadcast transition to the new studios was literally **seamless** and achieved in a **record time of three and a half weeks**.

Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk showed her support for ARN by officially opening the new studios with a special ribbon cutting ceremony, alongside **on-air talent** including 97.3FM breakfast hosts **Bianca Dye, Mike Van Acker** and **Bob Gallagher**, 4KQ breakfast hosts **Laurel Edwards, Gary Clare** and **Mark Hine**, 4KQ breakfast newsreader **Jo Hayes**, 97.3FM breakfast newsreader **Monique Dews**, 97.3FM afternoons presenter **Daniel Thomas**, plus HT&E CEO **Ciaran Davis**, ARN National Content Director **Duncan Campbell**, ARN Chief Commercial Officer **Pete Whitehead**, ARN Chief Operating Officer **Michael Harvey**, ARN National People & Culture Director **Marissa Daras**, and 97.3FM and 4KQ Content Director, **Barry Drinkwater**.

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HT&E CEO and Managing Director Ciaran Davis said: "ARN is dedicated to delivering its Brisbane audiences industry-leading audio experiences through our broadcast radio and on-demand content. We are proud to celebrate this milestone for 97.3FM and 4KQ in particular, and it's been an honour to have the support of the Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk to help launch our new Brisbane studios.

"ARN is focussed on being the leader in audio in Australia, and a critical driver for us with the move of the Brisbane office was to develop contemporary, technologically-advanced broadcast studios that deliver a premium listening and entertainment experience for our audiences.

"We are the first commercial radio network in the country to integrate the cutting-edge new AOIP technology across all on-air and production radio systems - which allows flexibility, ease and productivity for our producers - who can now focus more of their time on developing the best quality, engaging content for our listeners. These new capabilities will also ensure our audiences enjoy even more visual content across our digital and social networks.

"It was important to us to build studios that demonstrate the strength of 97.3FM and 4KQ's connection with our Brisbane audiences and offers a range of entertainment options on site for our clients, guests and listeners. Everything from the Queensland-inspired design elements, to the panoramic views we now have to showcase the best of Brisbane to our guests, to the fact our staff are now literally looking out upon our listeners from the central new CBD location - reflects how embedded 97.3FM and 4KQ are in Brisbane's culture."

97.3FM & 4KQ's NEW STUDIOS – THE RUN DOWN:

The Technology:

In an **Australian industry-first**, ARN is the only commercial radio broadcaster ever to build audio production facilities that provide a **perfect balance of Production and Broadcast technology** – Dante digital audio integrated with Broadcast Livewire. The set-up allows for premium radio content creation, with producers having direct access to all live on-air audio sources, as well as being able to live mix straight to air, from the production studios.

ARN is also the **first** commercial radio network in the country to **integrate new Axia Audio Over Internet Protocol (AOIP) technology across all of its on-air and production radio systems**. The ARN Melbourne studios were first in January, with the new purpose-built 97.3FM and 4KQ Brisbane facility going live in mid-May.

ARN achieved a successful **broadcast transition** to the new studios in a **record time of three and a half weeks**. Through a combination of sourcing the right engineering talent by pulling resources from ARN's Sydney, Melbourne and Perth offices to reduce interruptions to the Brisbane studios, to working effectively via a 'plug and play' project approach with their suppliers - the installation process was literally **seamless**.

To enhance **efficiency and comfort** of staff, throughout the new Brisbane offices motion sensors detect movement and light areas as required, and audio monitoring can be controlled by anyone sitting at their desk. The meeting rooms are all centrally managed by the Microsoft booking system with iPads mounted in each room, giving real-time information for room availability.

The views to the Brisbane River and city feature prominently in the studios, and even the blinds can be controlled via the radio panel.





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The Design:

Designed and project managed by strategic workplace design agency, Graham Nicholas, visually the studio incorporates some of **the most beautiful aspects of Queensland and Brisbane** through the use of the Queensland colours of **white, blue, green and sand**, and inspiration from the **Story Bridge, Queensland beaches** and Queensland **architecture**.

The exterior of the 97.3FM studio is themed around the **iconic Queenslander home**, while the 4KQ studio is clad in **Spotted Gum timber battens**, referencing a more contemporary Queensland architectural style.

It was important for ARN to develop studios that maximised space and natural light, encouraged airflow, and made a significant contribution to overall staff wellbeing, inspiration and productivity. The result is a spacious office with **panoramic windows**, beaming in **natural light** through the open plan layout, along with **captivating river and city views**.



Entertainment at the heart:

Entertainment options for guests, clients and listeners was also a large focus of the ARN Brisbane studio move – with a key appeal being an **on-site entertainment area** designed to fit 120 people comfortably, complete with stunning views of the river, city and Suncorp Stadium.

Additional benefits come in the form of the studio's adjoining, **heritage-listed Milton House** - the original homestead for the area dating back to 1852. A rare example of 1950s Colonial Georgian architecture and one of the oldest surviving houses in Brisbane with a rich history, Milton House offers a **swimming pool, tennis court** and additional **internal meeting spaces** as extra offerings.

The new Brisbane ARN broadcast studios are located at: **Kings Row, Building 4, Level 3, 40 McDougall Street, Milton.**

IMAGES - For images of the event and the new studio facilities, [click here.](#)

For further information about ARN Brisbane, [visit 973fm.com.au](http://visit.973fm.com.au) and 4kq.com.au





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About ARN

ARN is one of the leading broadcasters in the country with ownership or investments in 12 radio stations nationwide. Its network brands KIIS and Pure Gold, along with iHeartRadio and The Edge, entertain and influence over four million listeners across Australia.

Its KIIS network consists of Sydney's KIIS 1065 with Kyle & Jackie O, Melbourne's KIIS 101.1 with Jase & PJ, Adelaide's Mix102.3 with Jodie & Soda, Brisbane's 97.3FM with Bianca, Mike & Bob and Perth's 96FM with Paul & Lise. The National Drive Show across all stations is Will & Woody.

Its Pure Gold network consists of Sydney's WS FM101.7 with Jonesy & Amanda, Melbourne's GOLD104.3 with Christian O'Connell, Brisbane's 4KQ with Laurel, Gary & Mark and Adelaide's Cruise 1323 with John Dean.

The Edge is available on FM as The Edge 96.ONE in Sydney and nationally via iHeartRadio and DAB+. The Edge Breakfast hosts are Mike E & Emma.

ARN also launched iHeartRadio, the world's fastest growing digital service, to the Australian market in 2013 and the platform has had over 1,541,000 downloads of the app. iHeartRadio is a free, all-in-one radio, music streaming, podcast and live events platform. In addition to being able to access their favourite music from around the globe, audiences can access their favourite stations in Australia from ARN, the ABC, SBS and Fairfax, as well as stations from New Zealand and the USA.

ARN's suite of digital assets are the online home to Australia's leading radio stations including KIIS1065 and WSFM, providing highly engaged entertainment content and news, mirroring what ARN's stations are best known for. And The Roar is Australia's leading sports opinion website, sparking engaged and informed discussions around sport among a loyal community on site and social.

ARN is a HT&E company. For more details, head to www.arn.com.au.

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