



TCN 9 Sydney

Nudity in a G classified program

Complaint

In December 1998 the ABA received an unresolved complaint about a segment in the program 'Just Kidding' which was broadcast by TCN Channel Nine Pty Ltd (TCN) on 14 November 1998. The complainant claimed that the segment contained unacceptable levels of nudity for a G classification.

In the segment in question, the gender signs on the door of a swimming pool change room were switched from female to male. Female actors were semi-naked when men walked into the change room. The camera caught the expressions of the men as they were confronted by the semi-naked women. The last shot of the segment featured one of the women standing fully framed in front of the camera, slowly removing her bikini top to reveal a nipple.

Relevant code of practice

Section 2 of the Commercial Television Industry Code of Practice concerns the classification of programs. Specifically, clause 2.10 and subclause 2.10.2 provide:

2.10 Material classified G must not contain any matter likely to be unsuitable for children to watch without the supervision of a parent.

2.10.2 Sex and Nudity:

Depictions of and references to sexual behaviour must be limited and discreet. Discreet portrayal of nudity only when absolutely necessary to the story line or program context.

Decision

TCN admitted that an error in the editing had occurred and that the segment was not suitable for a G classification.

In responding to the complaint TCN apologised to the complainant for any offence the segment may have caused.

The ABA is of the view that the final shot of the segment, although very brief, is out of context with the remainder of the segment and not suitable for a G classification.

The ABA found that TCN breached clause 2.10 of the code in broadcasting a G classified program that contained material likely to be unsuitable for a child to watch without the supervision of a parent. The segment contained a depiction of nudity that was not discreet, nor absolutely necessary to the story line or program context.

Action taken

As a result of the investigation, TCN notified the ABA that they had introduced a new software program that alerts those scheduling a program to any necessary program changes required before the program can be broadcast. TCN stated that this is a substantial upgrade to the classification checking system used previously.

The ABA is satisfied with the action taken by TCN but will continue to monitor TCN with regard to this issue. 