



ABC TV

Depiction of suicide, complaints handling

On 6 April 2001 the ABA received a written complaint regarding an episode of 'Police Rescue' entitled 'Getting of Wisdom' broadcast by ABC television at 2 p.m. on 9 January 2001, a PG classification time zone. This episode was classified PG and had been broadcast previously, at 8.30 p.m., 4 October 1996.

The complaint was that the episode contained a detailed depiction of a suicide. The complainant also stated that he had received no response to his complaint from the ABC.

Relevant code of practice

Section 7.1 of the ABC Code of Practice states, in part:

Television Program Classifications
PG – Parental Guidance (parental guidance recommended for persons under 15 years)

PG programs:

- may contain adult themes and concepts which, when viewed by those under 15 years, may require the guidance of an adult;

- may be shown between 8.30 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. on weekdays and 7.30 p.m. and 6.00 a.m. on any day of the week.

Decision

The program was a drama in which the police rescue team attempted to talk to a disturbed woman intent on killing herself in a car. The method she used was clearly depicted in a shot panning over a garden hose and a rag attached to the car exhaust, and the other end of the hose was shown placed through the car window so the car exhaust fumes entered the car.

The ABC acknowledged that the 'Getting of Wisdom' episode was incorrectly broadcast with a PG classification.

The program had been classified in 1996 before its initial broadcast. The ABC regretted that this content was broadcast.

The ABA was of the view that the ABC breached clause 7.1 of the code in broadcasting this episode of 'Police Rescue'.

Action taken

The ABC has reviewed the program and advised that it should have been classified PG only if the detailed depiction of the portrayal of the suicide was cut. The ABC has deleted this content from the program.

The ABA was satisfied with the action taken by the ABC to prevent any further broadcast of this material. The ABA did not find any breach on relation to complaints handling.



IMPARJA Remote Central and Eastern Australia

Untagged election advertisements

A complainant alleged that a broadcast of an advertisement, on 15 February 2001, for a candidate in the Queensland State election, on 17 February 2001, breached the licence condition prohibiting the broadcast of election advertisements during the relevant (blackout) period.

Relevant licence condition

Clause 3A(2) of Schedule 2 to the Act states that if an election is to be held within the licence area of a station, the licensee is prohibited from broadcasting an election advertisement during

the relevant period which runs from the end of the Wednesday before the polling day until the close of the poll. Complier with this condition is a provision of the licensee's licence.

Decision

The ABA was satisfied that the material met the definition of 'election advertisement' (clause 1 of Schedule 2 to the Act) which specifies that the advertisement must contain election matter relating to the upcoming election, and the licensee must receive money or other consideration for the broadcast.

The ABA found the advertisement contained election matter relating to the upcoming election. It featured Tony McGrady, ALP candidate for Mt Isa, discussing what he and the ALP had achieved for the area during their time in office, and concluded with the statement 'Vote 1 Tony McGrady. He doesn't make promises, he just gets results'. The licensee advised the ABA that it received money for the broadcast.

Imparja advised that the election advertisements were broadcast seven times during the relevant blackout period. The ABA determined that these broadcasts constituted breaches of clause 3A(2) of Schedule 2 to the Act. #