



NWS 9 - Adelaide

Classification of material; broadcasting of material; adequate warnings

The complaint

The ABA received a complaint about a story concerning sexual and other abuse in the defence forces in the program *A Current Affair* broadcast by NWS9 in Adelaide SA. The complainant alleged that the licensee broadcast images that were unsuitable for the time of broadcast (between 6.30 p.m. and 7.00 p.m.) and was concerned about the absence of adequate warning prior to the broadcast of the material.

Action taken

In view of the action taken by the licensee, the ABA will take no further action.



Relevant code of practice

The Commercial Television Code of Practice states the following.

4.3 In broadcasting news and current affairs programs, licensees:

...

4.3.4 must provide the warnings required by Clauses 2.8 and 2.30 of this Code when there is an identifiable public interest reason for selecting and broadcasting visual and/or aural material which may seriously distress or seriously offend a substantial number of viewers;

The decision

The ABA determined that the licensee failed to provide adequate prior warning to material likely to seriously distress or seriously offend a substantial number of viewers.

The licensee advised the ABA that the findings had been reviewed by the Executive Producer of *A Current Affair* and the 'pixellating' practices are currently being reviewed.