



## Nine Network, Sydney

### Invasion of privacy, broadcast of material relating to personal and private affairs

#### **Complaint**

In August 2001, the ABA received a complaint concerning the broadcast by the Nine Network of *A Current Affair* on 28 May 2001, and the promotions for same broadcast on the preceding days. The segment and promotions featured a number of people who suffered losses as a result of the collapse of HIH being shown footage of the house belonging to Mrs Rita Williams, the wife of Mr Ray Williams, a founder and a former director of HIH, and their comments and reactions.

Mrs Williams' alleged that the segment and promotions used material relating to her personal and private affairs and invaded her privacy, in the absence of an identifiable public interest reason for doing so.

#### **Relevant Code of Practice**

The complaint was assessed against the following provisions of the Commercial Television Industry Code of Practice (the Code):

4.3 In broadcasting news and current affairs programs, licensees:

...

4.3.5 must not use material relating to a person's personal or private affairs, or which invades an individual's privacy, other than where there is an identifiable public interest reason for the material to be broadcast;

#### **Decision**

The ABA determined that the episode of *A Current Affair* broadcast on 28 May 2001 and promotions for same, breached clause 4.3.5 of the Code as material was broadcast which invaded Mrs Williams' privacy and related to her personal or private affairs and there was no

identifiable public interest reason for the broadcast of the material.

#### **Action Taken**

The ABA is currently investigating a number of similar issues in relation to the Nine Network. The ABA will consider what action to take in relation to this breach finding following the finalisation of these investigations.



#### **Investigations quarterly report**

Investigations into programming matters quarterly report will be available in the March 2002 edition of ABA Update