



compliance with codes and for resolving complaints rests with the broadcasters. The ABA, however, supervises the operation of the codes and performs the role of an independent adjudicator where complaints about code issues are not resolved between the complainant and the broadcaster concerned.

The ASTRA codes relate to various programming issues including:

- preventing the broadcasting of programs that, in accordance with community standards, are not suitable to be broadcast by that section of the industry
- methods of ensuring that the protection of children from exposure to program material which may be harmful to them
- methods of classifying programs that reflect community standards
- promoting accuracy and fairness in news and current affairs programs;
- requirements for ensuring confidentiality of subscriber information and
- complaints handling.

The Act requires the ABA to register a code of practice if it is satisfied that:

- the code provides appropriate community safeguards for the matters covered by it and

- the code is endorsed by the majority of the providers of broadcasting services in that section of the industry and
- members of the public have been given an adequate opportunity to comment on the code.

Enforcement of codes of practice

The ABA may make a finding that a broadcaster has breached a code of practice or a broadcaster may admit a breach of a code. Breaches of codes are not breaches of the Broadcasting Services Act, although the ABA may make compliance with a code a condition of licence. Generally the ABA seeks to ensure that broadcasters take action to remedy breaches or to put in place procedures to ensure they do not recur.

The ASTRA codes will apply to all subscription broadcasting, subscription narrowcasting and open narrowcasting services, even those who are not members of ASTRA.

Review of the ASTRA codes

The ASTRA codes will be subject to a review in three years' time, and the review will include a process of public consultation.



ABA members reappointed

Mr Robert Le Tet and Mr Malcom Long have been reappointed as members of the ABA for four year terms. First appointed 10 August 2000 for three years, Mr Le Tet and Mr Long have been re-appointed to 9 August 2007.

The Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, Senator Richard Alston, welcomed the reappointment of the two part-time members.

In his statement announcing the appointments, the Minister said, 'Mr Long and Mr Le Tet have made valuable contributions to the ABA during their first term of appointment, and their reappointments will continue to add balance to the skills and experience of the ABA membership.'

Mr Long has extensive experience in national broadcasting, having worked in senior roles for both the ABC and the SBS. He was recently appointed Director of the Australian Film, Television and Radio School.

Mr Le Tet has a thorough knowledge of the film, television, advertising and radio industries, and significant management experience as a producer, executive producer, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, in both domestic and international markets.'



Mr Le Tet



Mr Long