



GTV9 Melbourne

Fairness and impartiality


The complaint

The ABA received a complaint concerning the broadcast by GTV9 (Melbourne) of an item broadcast on *Nine News* and *Nightline* on 14 January 2003. The broadcast reported on a billing dispute between a telecommunications company and a customer. The customer was one of the bereaved Australian family members who travelled to Bali following the bombings in October 2002.

The complainant, the telecommunications company, alleged that the licensee did not present material accurately and failed to present viewpoints fairly. In particular, the complainant was concerned about the omission of information it had provided.

Decision

The ABA determined that the news items broadcast on 14 January 2003 did not present news fairly and impartially, and accordingly the licensee, General Television Corporation Pty Limited, breached clause 4.4.1 of the Commercial Television Industry Code of Practice.

In its finding, the ABA noted that the format of a news program, as distinct from a current affairs program, provides for the presentation by the newsreader and/or reporter of the latest facts to hand. It also found that the code imposes a relatively greater obligation on licensees to provide fair and impartial reporting in relation to news. 

Voice FM Ballarat

Broadcasting advertisements

The complaint

In June 2003 the ABA received a written complaint alleging that the licensee, a community radio broadcaster, Ballarat Community FM Radio Cooperative Society (Voice FM Ballarat), was regularly broadcasting advertisements.

Decision


The ABA determined that on 17 and 22 May 2003, the licensee breached the licence condition set

out at paragraph 9(1)(b) of Schedule 2, Part 5 of the Broadcasting Services Act when it broadcast the following advertisements:

- The Framing Gallery
- Noni Fruit Juice.

Action taken

In response to the ABA's finding, the licensee undertook to take remedial action including reviewing and updating training procedures. It also undertook to consulting with the Community Broadcasting Association of Australia and other community groups to obtain 'best practice' examples of training material.

The ABA will continue to monitor the licensee's compliance with its licence conditions. 

Investigation reports : breach findings

To view the full report on these investigations, go to the ABA web site:

www.aba.gov.au/tv/investigations/breach_findings/ or

www.aba.gov.au/radio/investigations/breach_findings/

where the reports are arranged according to month of completion.