

The full reports on these investigations into potential breaches by licensees are on the ACMA website at www.acma.gov.au (go to About ACMA: Publications & research > Broadcasting publications > Investigations, then Radio operations or Television operations). The reports are arranged by state/territory in order of licensee.

Seven incorrectly classified three episodes of *Home and Away*

ACMA has found that Channel Seven Melbourne Pty Ltd, the licensee of commercial television service HSV Melbourne, breached the *Commercial Television Industry Code of Practice 2004* by incorrectly classifying three episodes of *Home and Away* broadcast on 21 February, 23 March and 26 March 2007.

The findings result from complaints that the programs were incorrectly classified G. They were broadcast during the time slot when both PG and General (G) programs are permitted to be broadcast.

Under the code, material classified G is not necessarily intended for children, but it must be very mild in impact and must not contain any matter likely to be unsuitable for children to watch without supervision. Material classified PG may contain careful presentations of adult themes or concepts, but must be mild in impact and remain suitable for children to watch with supervision.

One complaint concerned the 21 February 2007 episode of *Home and Away*, which dealt with a teenage couple's decision to have sex and the consequences of this decision

for their relationship.

ACMA found that verbal references to sex and visual depictions of sexual behaviour contained in the episode were not brief or infrequent. It also considered that the program's treatment of the theme of teenage sexuality was not very mild in impact. ACMA therefore determined that Seven incorrectly classified the program G, and that it breached the code in this broadcast.

A second complaint related to episodes of *Home and Away* broadcast on 23 and 26 March 2007, in which an adult female character is encouraged by her boyfriend to take up pole-dancing, although she is reluctant to do so.

ACMA determined that pole-dancing scenes contained in the programs contained visual depictions of sexual behaviour, that their impact was higher

than very mild, and that the episodes were not suitable for children to watch without supervision. ACMA found that Seven breached the code in both broadcasts.

Seven has advised ACMA that, as a result of viewers' feedback about the intensity of some *Home and Away* storylines, episodes of the program are now generally classified PG, and that care would be taken to ensure that any episodes that are classified G are very mild in impact and suitable for children to watch without supervision.

Seven also has advised that ACMA's final investigation reports have been provided to all classification and programming staff, and will be used to guide future classification decisions.