



Investigations

- clause 4.3.5 (invasion of privacy); and
- clause 4.3.1 (failed to present factual material accurately and represent viewpoints fairly).

Decision

The ABA determined that the licensee of HSV 7, Channel Seven Melbourne Pty Ltd, breached clause 4.3.5 of the code and did not breach code clause 4.3.1.

Action taken

The licensee has advised that it intends to provide a copy of the ABA's decision to key personnel involved in news and current affairs along with an explanation of the decision and directions to ensure that future program are consistent with the ABA's determination.



ABC Television

Care with news broadcasts during children's viewing times

Complaint:

The ABA received a written complaint on 2 April 2003, concerning the interruption of children's programming on ABC Television with news updates covering the Iraq war. In particular, the complainant was concerned about the images of violence appearing during children's programming on 26 March 2003.

Each of the news updates broadcast from this date was assessed separately as well as the issue of whether the ABC should have avoided showing any news bulletins during dedicated children's programming.

Decision

The ABA determined that news updates broadcast by ABC Television on 26 March 2003 at 3 pm, and repeated at 4 pm during children's programming, contained violent material in breach of ABC Code of Practice clause 4.9. The ABA further determined that:

- ABC's broadcast of television news updates at times outside normal scheduling, including during children's programming, was justified by the circumstances as Australia was actively engaged in the war in Iraq
- the ABC TV news update broadcast at 10.00 am did not contain material such as to amount to a breach of clause 4.9 of the code and
- the ABC did not broadcast any violent material during its late afternoon or early evening television programming on 26 March 2003.

Action taken

The ABC acknowledged that the bulletins broadcast at 3 pm and 4 pm on 26 March 2003 contained images unsuitable for broadcast at times when subsequent programs were directed at children. Accordingly, ABC management has emphasised to news staff the need to take care with images used in programs, particularly in children's viewing times.



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.