

26 April 2008

Senate Standing Committee on the
Environment, Communications and the Arts
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
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Inquiry into the effectiveness of the Broadcasting Codes of Practice

I was very interested to hear that the Government is having an enquiry about the language used in TV programmes.

I see the current situation as allowing far too much bad language, with almost no attempt made by any of the networks to stem the flow. In the current situation self regulation simply does not work.

Over many years I have complained, unsuccessfully to TV Channels about the unsatisfactory language used on TV. Nothing has changed, and I have all but given up. Thus I have not complained for some months. I simply watch a show, such as "Underbelly" and when the language becomes objectionable I turn it off.

What infuriates me is that this language is not tolerated in the United States. Friends visiting from the United States were outraged with the language on Australian TV shows. I read in the newspaper, some time ago, that moviemakers make two versions, one with a tame language (which is used in the US) and another with harsh language that is viewed in Australia. What I would like to know is why can't we have the toned-down American version.

I am not offended by nudity, but am horrified by the use of the F and C words, and as such I would like to see the F and C words totally banned from television at all times. In our house we do not use this language, and thus do not appreciate other people saying it on TV.

Yours sincerely,
Edward Ellis