

2 May 2008

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts
Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Dear Members of the Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts,

Our key concern is that television programs at family viewing hours, i.e. to approx 9:30 pm, do not include either programs or advertisements that use, as you have in point a) “coarse and foul language (swearing)”, sexual content or violence of the kind that could disturb a child. We have two young daughters and this is a key concern to us. We have little confidence in them watching other than the ABC during the scheduled times for children’s programs.

This should also apply when telecasting sporting events, such as cricket, Rugby League and AFL, broadcast beyond this time. During such broadcasts, well into the night, the kinds of advertisements aimed at a more adult audience appear, as under the current regulations, and therefore have a greater likelihood of confronting children.

On radio, the boundaries of the kinds of language used pushes further and further towards coarseness, particularly on the popular music stations. Can more strict guidelines curb this please?

Thank you,

Gerard and Andrea Calilhanna