

It causes me much concern that "family" viewing times on TV are continually imbued with sex content, foul language and brutal scenes and dialogue expressing extreme violence and suffering.

For example, in the early evening dancing competition shows, why should a provocatively sexual dance pattern be awarded over dance skill and technique? I don't see real entertainment in a depiction of violence and cruelty, especially of a sexual nature, in fashion model competitions like 'America's Top Model'.

M rated movies are shown in family viewing times while PG rated programs are shown in late evenings. More and more programs with adult themes of violent or sexual content are replacing children's programs in child-friendly family viewing times and I also know of many parents who are really worried about this situation. Amid their countless responsibilities, in their genuine concern for their children's healthy and appropriate entertainment, they find it extremely hard to have a hand on the remote control with what their children watch. Equally inappropriate is the mis-classification of most M programs which should be MA15+.

An overhaul of the complaints process is urgently required. It is seriously void of accountability and transparency. Most viewers would find it utterly confusing or perhaps would not even know about it. Particularly irregular is the way the process is structured to favour broadcasters rather than complainants. It is scandalous that 12 months elapsed before SBS was sanctioned for presenting a program with illegal pornographic content. Within that period SBS would have been quite free to continue showing illegal material with resultant detrimental effects on young viewers.

Subtle ongoing intrusion of sexualisation in the media has reached such a low point where even humour in game and home improvement shows or dialogue in cooking shows are subject to its influence. It is time for a halt and reversal of this trend.

It is a serious, social responsibility of broadcasters to exercise far greater care and precaution against exposing viewers, especially children and adolescents, to brutal, disturbing or sexual material in both programming and advertising.

I urgently request the Committee to strongly recommend the fixing and firm application of appropriate classification standards across the board for the betterment of our society, particularly the young.

Yours sincerely
Peter Phillips