

**From**

Rev. Stefan Slucki  
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**to**

The Secretary,  
Senate of Australia,  
Standing Committee on the Environment, Communications and the Arts.

04.05 2008.

A submission to the Inquiry into the effectiveness of the broadcasting codes of practice.

I present this individual submission to the inquiry. In doing so, I wish to advise that I totally agree with the detailed argumentation and desired outcomes of the Australian Christian Lobby [ACL] submission to this inquiry whose reasoning I will not reproduce.

There is a need for a clearly worded, nationally-legislated and enforced set of standards for radio and television.

Even though community usage and acceptance of what is undoubtedly a greater level of "coarse language" cannot be denied, there is no justification in tolerating, even encouraging, the boundaries of such usage to be stretched via the media.

Whilst I cannot expect that Christian standards will always be upheld in programming, I do expect that gratuitous bad language (which everyone still recognises as bad language) will be subject to at least those standards which currently pertain to broadcasting – as referred to in the ACL submission.

In particular, the gratuitous blaspheming of God's Name.

I am not advocating the suppression of non or anti-Christian viewpoints being expressed in the media, but there is no need for the gratuitous use of God's/Jesus' Name! The bleep-out system should be reintroduced to counter this offensive practice.

The regulator of programming should be staffed by people from a cross-section of society including womens and childrens advocacy groups and should definitely be able to view programmes *prior* to their airing.

Freedom of expression is a grand ideal and cornerstone of our society but should not be confused with laissez-faire, libertarian licence to do ... whatever.

Yours faithfully,

Stefan Slucki.