

File Ref: 2007/0008

6 September 2007

Dear Sheikh Haron

RE: *Sunrise broadcast of 4 July 2007*

I refer to your letter of 17 August 2007 to the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA), concerning comments made during the program *Sunrise*, broadcast by ATN 7 on 4 July 2007.

The role of ACMA is to regulate the broadcasting industry. ACMA assesses licensees' compliance with provisions of the industry codes of practice and conditions under the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992*.

The commercial television industry has developed its own code of practice which covers such matters as program classification (including the portrayal of violence, sex and nudity, language, drugs and suicide), program promotions, news and current affairs, advertising time, classification and placement of advertisements and the handling of complaints.

Enclosed is a copy of the Commercial Television Industry Code of Practice 2004 (the code), together with a pamphlet explaining the complaints procedure and role of ACMA in more detail. As mentioned in the 'Complaints about television and radio content' pamphlet, complaints about code matters should first be made in writing to the station concerned.

Your complaint should be directed to the following broadcaster in the first instance:

The Manager

Regulatory and Business Affairs

Seven Network Ltd

PO Box 777

Pymont NSW 2009

If you have not received a response within 60 days after making the complaint, or you have received a response within 60 days but consider it to be inadequate, you may then make a complaint to ACMA about the matter. If you wish ACMA to consider your complaint under these circumstances, could you please ensure that you provide copies of all letters to and from the station.

As can be seen from the Code, clause 1.8.6 prohibits the broadcast of a program likely to 'provoke or perpetuate intense dislike, serious contempt or severe ridicule against a person or group of persons on the grounds of age, colour, gender, national or ethnic origin, disability, race, religion or sexual preference'.

Matters pertaining to the possible instruction of terrorists are more properly dealt with by the Attorney-General's Office and I note that a copy of your letter has been sent to the Attorney-General, Mr Philip Ruddock.

Thank you for bringing your concern to ACMA's attention.

Yours sincerely,

David Smith

Investigations Section