



An 'inadvertent error' led to the broadcast of an the unedited version of a movie. The ABA considers that in instances of this kind, licensees should broadcast an on-air apology to their viewers at a comparable time to the original broadcast.

'Crazy for a kiss'— broadcast by Nine network

The ABA received a considerable number of telephone complaints about the movie, *Crazy for a Kiss*, which was broadcast nationally, except in WA, by the Nine network and its affiliates at 2.00 p.m. on 14 January.

The ABA understands that the Nine network and its affiliate stations also received a large number of telephone complaints about the matter.

'Whilst the ABA cannot pre-judge the outcome of a formal complaint under the Commercial Television Industry Code of Practice, the ABA considers that in instances of this kind, licensees should broadcast an on-air apology to their viewers at a comparable time to the original broadcast,' said Gareth Grainger, ABA Deputy Chairman.

'The ABA is pleased that in the spirit of self-regulation NWS 9 in Adelaide has already broadcast such an apology and the remainder of the Nine network intends to issue

an apology today [15 January].'

The complaints to the ABA concerned high level coarse language, drug use and violence in the movie. The nature of the complaints suggests to the ABA that the movie, as broadcast, may not have been appropriate for a PG classified timeslot. Programs broadcast at 2.00 p.m. on weekdays during school holidays cannot be classified higher than PG.

The Nine network acknowledged in discussion with the ABA that it broadcast a version of the movie *Crazy for a Kiss* which had not been edited to suit the PG timeslot.

The Nine network has advised the ABA that it had ordered cuts to the original version of the film in order for it to comply with the PG classification allowable at that time of day, however the unedited version of the movie was broadcast due to an 'inadvertent error'.

Extract from the Commercial Television Industry Code of Practice

The Parental Guidance Recommended (PG) Classification

2.12 Material classified PG may contain adult themes or concepts but must remain suitable for children to watch under the guidance of a parent or guardian.

2.12.1 **Violence:** Any violence depicted must be inexplicit, discreet or stylised and appropriate to the story line or program context. No overly realistic, bloody or horrific depictions of violence are permitted.

2.12.2 **Sex and Nudity:** Depictions of and references to intimate sexual behaviour must be discreet and appropriate to the story line or program context, and must not dominate the theme of a program. Discreet portrayal of nudity only where justified by story line or program context.

2.12.3 **Language:** Low-level offensive language may only be used when justified by the story line or program context, and then only infrequently.

2.12.4 **Drugs:** Techniques for the consumption of illegal drugs must not be demonstrated, and illegal drugs must not be depicted favourably. Use of legal drugs must be depicted with care.

2.12.5 **Suicide:** The depiction of suicide or attempted suicide must be inexplicit and discreet, and must not be presented as the means of achieving a desired result or as an appropriate response to stress, depression or other problems.

2.13 Parental Guidance Recommended (PG) classification zones

Weekdays (schooldays)

5.00am	-	6.00am
8.30am	-	12.00 noon
3.00pm	-	4.00pm
7.30pm	-	8.30pm

Weekdays (school holidays)

5.00am	-	6.00am
8.30am	-	4.00pm
7.30pm	-	8.30pm

Weekends

5.00am	-	6.00am
7.30pm	-	8.30pm

In PG zones, only material classified PG, G, C and P may be broadcast (though note exemptions in clause 2.5).

2.13.1 School holidays mean Government primary school holidays in the State or Territory in which the service originates.