



TCN 9 – Sydney

Invasion of an individual's privacy

The complaint

In October 2001, the ABA received an unresolved complaint regarding a segment of the program *A Current Affair*, broadcast by TCN Channel Nine Pty Ltd on 6 August 2001, which concerned the filming and subsequent broadcast of footage of the complainant in his home, without his knowledge. The complainant alleged that the item in question breached his privacy.

take any further action at this stage. The ABA will, however, be closely monitoring future compliance by the licensee with this clause of the code.



Relevant code of practice

The complaint was assessed against the following provisions of the Commercial Television Industry Code of Practice (the code):

4.3 In broadcasting news and current affairs programs, licensees:

4.3.5 must not use material relating to a person's personal or private affairs, or which invades the individual's privacy, other than where there is an identifiable public interest.

The decision

The ABA determined that this segment of *A Current Affair* breached clause 4.3.5 of the code, in that it broadcast material relating to the complainant's personal affairs, which invaded his privacy. In addition, the ABA determined there was no identifiable public interest for broadcasting the material.

Action taken

As the licensee has undertaken to make the ABA's findings known to the Executive Producer of the program, and to use the findings in its code compliance training, the ABA decided not to