

Media Release

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Public consultation opens on draft codes of broadcasting practice

The Broadcasting Standards Authority (BSA) is inviting members of the public to have their say on broadcasting standards in New Zealand. Submissions can be made online from 20 July to 31 August 2015.

The BSA collaborates with broadcasters to develop codes of broadcasting practice that apply to all TV and radio broadcasters in New Zealand. It is currently undertaking a review of its three main Codes - Free-to-Air Television, Pay Television and Radio. The consultation document for this review has been drafted with input from a working group of broadcaster representatives, and the BSA is now consulting with the public on the draft codes.

'The purpose of this public consultation is to invite submissions from a range of viewpoints so the codes reflect the general values and expectations of New Zealand's diverse society. We want the codes to be modern, principles-based and consistent, where possible. We also want the codes to be user-friendly, clear and informative', says the BSA's Chief Executive, Karen Scott-Howman.

The code review is limited by the BSA's governing legislation, the Broadcasting Act 1989. This means that the code review only covers the 11 standards set out in the Act. The review does not cover things like advertisements, internet content or the general quality of programmes.

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For more information contact Morgan Coats on 021 072 8280.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Submissions can be made on the BSA's website at: <http://bsa.govt.nz/code-review>.

ABOUT THE BROADCASTING STANDARDS AUTHORITY

The Broadcasting Standards Authority is an independent body that oversees the broadcasting standards regime in New Zealand. We do this by determining complaints that broadcasts have breached standards, by doing research and also by providing information about broadcasting standards.

We are essentially an appeal body, which is why complaints generally go to the broadcaster first (with the exception of privacy issues and election advertisements).

The Authority Board has four members – Peter Radich (chair), Leigh Pearson, Te Rau Kupenga and Paula Rose.

For more information see our website: www.bsa.govt.nz.