

Media Release

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BSA releases new codebook of broadcasting standards

New codes of broadcasting standards for radio, free-to-air television and pay television take effect today, 1 April 2016.

The new codebook was produced by the Broadcasting Standards Authority (BSA) in close consultation with a working group of broadcaster representatives. It also reflects submissions received from members of the public. In developing the codebook, the objective was to ensure a modern, principles-based and consistent set of codes that are user-friendly and informative. Three separate codes have been collated into one codebook.

The new codebook continues to reflect the specific requirements of the Broadcasting Act 1989. However it endeavours to approach the requirements of the Act in a more informative and helpful way.

Broadcasting standards must reflect the community values of the time and, importantly, they must reflect the fundamental rights enshrined in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990, including the right of freedom of expression.

The new codes recognise that societal values evolve and change and that approaches to standards need to take account of this evolution and change.

BSA chair Peter Radich, and Bill Francis, spokesperson for the working group of broadcasters, said, 'We have worked together to update and refresh the codes which apply to broadcasting in New Zealand. We think that the new codebook will better reflect current practices and be more helpful to audiences and broadcasters'.

To obtain copies of the codebook, or if you have any other questions about the new codebook, please contact the BSA by email at info@bsa.govt.nz or by

phoning 0800 366 996. PDF versions of the codebook can also be downloaded from www.bsa.govt.nz.

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For more information contact Nicole Hickman on 027 313 0179.

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.

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