

## Media Release

21 September 2016

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### **BSA finds tiler featured on *The Block NZ: Villa Wars* treated unfairly**

The Broadcasting Standards Authority has upheld a fairness complaint from a tiler featured in an episode of *The Block NZ: Villa Wars* and found that his conduct was misrepresented. The BSA has ordered broadcaster MediaWorks TV to pay costs to the Crown of \$1,500.

Ljubisa ‘Bob’ Djurdjevic was described as a ‘temperamental European tiler’ who allegedly wanted to be paid in advance and went ‘AWOL’ when he was not paid. He complained that he was treated unfairly and that the show misrepresented his work ethic. He also complained that he had made it clear he did not want to be shown on the programme.

The Authority found that the programme created an unfairly negative impression of Mr Djurdjevic. It was alleged that he did not ‘show up’ at the site and was late. The programme created a strong impression that he wanted to be paid upfront before completing his work. The Authority found that these claims were inaccurate and misleading.

It was further found that Mr Djurdjevic was not adequately informed of the nature of his participation in the programme or that he would be portrayed as ‘temperamental’ or that the theme would be ‘tradie troubles’. The Authority said “Mr Djurdjevic was not given a reasonable opportunity to comment on how he was portrayed in the broadcast because he did not know he was going to feature in the broadcast or the angle that would be taken.”

In its decision, the Authority emphasised the importance of ensuring that all participants in reality television are treated fairly.

“We remind broadcasters that in reality television, the ‘story’ and the pace of filming cannot be prioritised over fairness to participants, especially when an individual has said they do not want to be featured in any broadcast. This programme had the potential to be damaging to Mr Djurdjevic’s professional reputation and business interests and the broadcaster ought to have recognised this”, the Authority said.

In issuing its decision the Authority also said, “We are not suggesting that the programme should not have been broadcast at all. The programme could still have been broadcast if the complainant’s identity had been effectively masked, or

if he had been given a reasonable opportunity to comment and defend himself, and his position had been fairly presented to viewers.”

ENDS

**For more information contact Catie Murray on 021 623 794.**

#### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

The full decision is available at <http://bsa.govt.nz/decisions/latest>.

The programme was broadcast on 28 October 2015. The decision was made under the previous Free-to-Air Code of Broadcasting Practice. The new Codebook has been in force since 1 April 2016 and is available at <http://bsa.govt.nz/standards/overview>.

#### **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.

The Authority members who determined this complaint were Peter Radich (Chair), Leigh Pearson, Te Raumawhitu Kupenga and Paula Rose.

**For more information see our website: [www.bsa.govt.nz](http://www.bsa.govt.nz).**