

25 November 2013

BSA says *Futurama* episode incorrectly classified

The BSA has found that an episode of the animated cartoon series, *Futurama*, on FOUR should have been classified PGR because it contained sexual content not suitable for unsupervised children.

The episode, which was classified G and broadcast at 6.30pm, contained sexual references and innuendo which the BSA said was targeted at a more mature audience.

“The episode’s incorrect classification and inappropriate time of broadcast meant that viewers were not properly informed of the likely content and were denied any opportunity to make a different viewing choice, or to exercise discretion with regard to their children’s viewing.”

When considering the complaint the BSA also took into account its recent research which indicated that parents felt strongly that cartoons broadcast in children’s viewing times were likely to appeal to children and therefore that they should be able to expect them to be appropriate. The sexual content in this particular episode was not sufficiently inexplicit to be acceptable for inclusion in a G programme, the BSA said.

The complainant wanted TVWorks to pay a donation to an organisation assisting child victims of sexual abuse, however the BSA does not have the power under the Act to order a broadcaster to do so.

The BSA was satisfied that publication of its decision was sufficient to address the breach, and acknowledged that the episode has since been reclassified.

The full report is available at www.bsa.govt.nz

For more information contact: Heather Church 021 78 29 23