

# MAKE AN ELECTION PROGRAMME COMPLAINT

*Tukuna He Kōamuamu Hōtaka Pōtitanga*

## BEFORE YOU START

- You can complain directly to the BSA about an election programme that you consider breaches the Election Programmes Code. For information on the Election Programmes Code see our website: <https://www.bsa.govt.nz/broadcasting-standards/election-code/>
- We deal with complaints about election programmes, which are programmes which are broadcast on television or radio by or for a political party or candidate during the election period (for a general election or by-election) and usually appear as short promotional/campaign clips for the relevant political party or candidate. The election period is the month before the election polling day.
- Complaints about other programmes that relate to an election (eg news and current affairs coverage, satire or comment) should be made under the Radio, Free-to-Air or Pay Television Codes and must first go to the broadcaster (within 20 working days of the broadcast). If you have already made a complaint to the broadcaster about such a programme and you are not satisfied with the broadcaster's decision and wish to refer it to us, please use the complaint form titled **Refer a complaint to the BSA**.
- Other agencies such as the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA), Electoral Commission and NZ Media Council also deal with election-related complaints. To find out where to send your concerns or a complaint about election material, see our **Who does what?** election guide. If we are not able to deal with your complaint, we may forward it to the agency that may be able to assist you.

## Some deadlines apply:

- You have 60 working days from the date of broadcast of an election programme to complain directly to the BSA about a breach of the Election Programmes Code.

You can make your election programme complaint to us using this form by emailing it to us at [complaints@bsa.govt.nz](mailto:complaints@bsa.govt.nz)

If you choose to post your complaint to us (**PO Box 9213, Wellington 6141**) it **must reach us within 60 working days from the date of broadcast**.

If you need further assistance you can phone us on **0800 366 996**.

## BSA fast-track process for election complaints:

- From the period 16 June - 18 September we aim to fast track consideration of election related complaints. See the fast track process [here](#).

## PERSONAL DETAILS

We require your details to process your complaint effectively. For more information see our [privacy policy](#) on our website.

Your Name:

Email Address:

Phone:

Address:

Preferred form of contact:  Post  Email

## PROGRAMME DETAILS

Programme title:

Broadcast date:

Broadcast time:

Type of Broadcast:  Radio  Free-to-air Television  Pay Television  Other

Channel/Station:

## COMPLAINT DETAILS

Complaint date:

The Election Programmes Code standard(s) which I believe have been breached are:

**Standard E1 - Election Programmes Subject to Other Codes:** *(Please select all that apply)*

Good Taste and Decency

Discrimination and Denigration

Programme Information

Alcohol

Children's Interests

Accuracy

Violence

Privacy

Law and Order

Fairness

**Standard E2: Election Programme Advocacy - Distinguishing Factual Information from Opinion or Advocacy**

**Standard E3: Denigration**

**Standard E4: Misleading Programmes**

Please provide details of why you think the programme breached each of the standards you have selected:

## SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS/EVIDENCE

If you would like to attach further information or evidence in support of your complaint, please attach it to your complaint, or email it to us at [complaints@bsa.govt.nz](mailto:complaints@bsa.govt.nz) (make sure files are clearly labelled and dated).

**BROADCASTING STANDARDS AUTHORITY**  
**PO BOX 9213 | WELLINGTON 6141 | NEW ZEALAND**  
**WWW.BSA.GOVT.NZ | 0800 366 996**