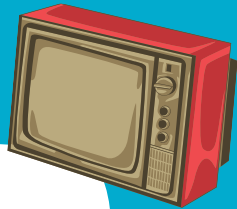


35 years of broadcasting standards

Since its creation in 1989, NZ's broadcasting standards system has been a game-changer in protecting freedom of expression while also tackling potential harm



Going live

Enter the standards system and BSA, which receives complaints by fax and reviews VHS tapes of broadcasts. The web is not yet a thing

1989



Bugger!

Frowned on by 1 in 6 Kiwis in BSA surveys at the time, this word sparks outrage in a famous ute advert. It has since dropped from the ranks of offensive terms.

Upheld complaints peak this year, at 71

1999/2000



Speaking ill

COVID-19 triggers passionate responses & mis/disinformation. Complaints spike, with a vehemence reflecting growing polarisation. Broadcasters overwhelmingly cover the crisis correctly & accurately

2020

1994

Radio waves

BSA finds Health Minister Jenny Shipley was treated unfairly in a radio interview but acknowledges changing times in radio, resulting in a review of how standards apply to talkback



2019

Dark days

The Christchurch mosque attacks spark some of the most challenging and significant decisions. BSA issues new guidance for reporting on terrorism, extremism and crises

2024

Changing channels

Record-low complaint upholds show the co-regulatory standards system has achieved its purpose. But migration of TV & radio audiences to new platforms drives a need for reform of content regulation

