

# Broadcasting Standards Authority

*Entry last updated on 28 January 2022*

## Te Mana Whanonga Kaipāho

### Governing statutes

The Broadcasting Standards Authority was established by the Broadcasting Act 1989.

### Functions and responsibilities

The functions of the Authority are set out in section 21 of the Act. They include (in summary):

Section 21(1) The function of the Authority shall be –

- (a) To receive and determine complaints
- (b) To publicise its procedures in relation to complaints; and
- (c) To issue to any or all broadcasters, advisory opinions relating to broadcasting standards and ethical conduct in broadcasting; and
- (d) To encourage the development and observance by broadcasters of codes of broadcasting practice appropriate to the type of broadcasting undertaken by such broadcasters in relation to –
  - (i) The protection of children
  - (ii) The portrayal of violence
  - (iii) Fair and accurate programmes and procedures for correcting factual errors and redressing unfairness
  - (iv) Safeguards against the portrayal of persons in programmes in a manner that encourages the denigration of, or the discrimination against, sections of the community on account of sex, race, age, disability or occupational status or as a consequence of legitimate expression of religious, cultural or political beliefs
  - (v) Restrictions on the promotion of alcohol
  - (vi) Presentation of appropriate warnings in respect of programmes that have been classified as suitable only for particular audiences
  - (vii) the privacy of the individual

(e) To conduct research and publish findings on matters relating to standards in broadcasting

(f) To develop and issue codes of broadcasting practice where the Authority considers it appropriate.

## Structure

The Broadcasting Standards Authority consists of four members appointed by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Minister of Broadcasting. A small secretariat based in Wellington services the Authority.

## Records

The main documents held by the Broadcasting Standards Authority concern complaints about breaches of broadcasting standards made to the Authority and research. The Office of the Ombudsman has advised that information relating to the Authority's determination of complaints – in its capacity as a tribunal, exercising its functions – is not 'official information' for the purposes of the Official Information Act. The Authority's decisions and research reports are all published on its website.

## Documents relating to decision-making process

Broadcasting Standards Authority's Policy and Operations Manual.

## Contact

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