

2018 Public Consultation on Timebands and Classifications on Free-to-air television

Individual submissions

Submitter: C Stewart

My submission is regarding broadcasting standards

1. Appropriate viewing time for programmes
Often programmes are shown in afternoons or early evenings that are not appropriate for children's viewing – inappropriate content and words eg "reality shows" with sexually explicit content eg. "Naked Dates" I don't believe these programmes should be on before 10pm at night (if at all)
2. Apologies in News for graphic content
Sometimes newsreaders apologise for graphic content eg. War scenes or accidents – this is reality and is far less offensive than some of the so called "reality shows" content.

Given crime statistics and increasing problems in our society, I believe programmes do influence people and children are particularly vulnerable. Please take this into account when considering programmes and viewing times.

Thank you for reading my submission

Submitter: N Brieseman

This has not been carefully thought through. You appear to be making the false assumptions that:

1. everyone has a digital receiver (they do not)
2. Every digital receiver has the ability to block programs based on the rating (they do not)
3. Every owner of a digital receiver has the knowledge, confidence, fortitude, and patience to navigate the torturous menu systems, both to set up program blocking based on ratings, and to password-lock the device against tampering with the settings (they do not)

If you remove timebands, you are removing the only form of protection available to many people.

Don't do it!

Finally, I am horrified at how badly advertised this was, the extremely poor choice of times for public meetings, and the astoundingly short timeframes for responses, on such an important issue affecting the mental health of our children, and therefore the future health of our nation

Submitter: J Mitchell

I just saw your advert

Re: suitable programmes for children on 'vibe'.
It is final day today so I hope you will accept this.

We do tend to watch 'Shortland St' and as grandparents I strongly believe this programme is NOT SUITABLE for the younger children to watch.

Perhaps 16 up is ok as the things shown could involve this age. Younger children seeing rapists, results of rape, trans, multi, bi and Herron- etc/ sexual activity and other provocative behaviour seems unnecessary at a younger age.

Decisions re: abortion of a 'downs syndrome' baby and babies born being hermaphrodite All just seems unnecessary.

Drug use from young Doctors, alcohol issues, spiritualism, and police not having the respect they should have, all in 40 minutes means the young take it all in without becoming 'bored' and leaving.

Heavens knows what the young think as they go to their next stop... social media!

They decide their future on this medium and I believe the fast absorption they are so good at has an adverse effect on their understanding of what is NORMAL.

Shortland St should be later in evening

Submitter: Steve and Carrie

Good evening,

I'm [personal information] and can't watch everything that they choose to watch on telly. With regards to the above we feel there is not enough good kids tv on between 7am - 9am weekdays. What is on are cartoons that don't teach kids anything nor does it warm up their minds for a full day of school. My 9y has begun to watch breakfast in the mornings as she believes it is more educational. The only show I like my 5y watching is Peppa pig. Everything else is mindless nonsense.

After school fanimals is the only thing on that teaches them anything. Shows like the Simpsons and friends should no longer be aired. We've had to watch rerun after rerun. Once a season has ended it should make way for something new. Also there is confusion over the new Simpsons show after 6pm. My kids think that because it's the Simpsons they can watch it but it's gruesome. And they hardly listen when I mumsplain everything.

Their just needs to be more wholesome shows on telly. Also if possible looking into airing more kids shows during school holidays please.

We use to pay for sky but they wanted too much for what we were watching although the kids disney channel was terrific for playing movies or things more suited to their ages ie nei hao kailan taught the kids Chinese which was useful and they wanted to tell their friends what they learnt.

We appreciate the opportunity to have our say. We hope it makes a difference.

Submitter: W Single

Thank you for taking the step towards consulting with your community about time bands and labelling of programming content.

As a principal, teacher and mother one of the things that I find sad in my daily interactions with students is the adult world that they have been exposed to and how that robs them of the opportunity for a carefree and happy childhood.

I am aware that parents ultimately have to make good choices on the behalf of their children but I am also aware that the impact tv viewing has on children often goes unnoticed by parents. I regularly witness upset, distressed and disturbed children who are struggling to cope and put into context things they have viewed. They have nightmares, are scared or have inappropriate sexual knowledge due to the content that they have seen. The impact on their learning can be significant let alone their emotional health and well being.

You the broadcaster do play a role in helping to keep our kids safe. The creation of Hei Hei has been a step in the right direction but more needs to be done, particularly in regards to the slightly harder 'tween' demographic.

Teachers have long since mentioned that we wish you would bring back the goodnight kiwi, even if parents are not turning content off at least children will know that what they are viewing is after appropriate child-viewing time and we can support this in schools. So many of our children are coming to school on Monday tired from staying up late watching the Sunday night movie.

Maybe a bigger warning at the beginning of a show- Whole Screen with the colour and code rating for that programme to make it more obvious to parents what the ratings are. An education programme to support this in schools would be great.

I would love to see ads that are appropriate to the rating of the programme only being allowed at certain times. If it is a family programme have family ads! Seperate On demand for adult and student content with parental locks.

Our kids are not being allowed to have the childhood that they deserve and you play a critical role in helping them to reclaim their right to protect their emotional wellbeing from inappropriate adult content that they are unable to process and leaves them feeling scared, confused and vulnerable.

Submitter: N Tait

I am responding to the advertisement/information about 'Change in times for classifications for Adult Programmes on State TV.'

I personally believe that many programmes shown at present are not wholly suitable for young people under 16. I am a school teacher and we do not show videos or DVDs of the similar violence or sexual issues that are shown on State TV at present. Teachers know it is important to protect many students from levels of violence and sexual content/speech that can upset them and their parents.

So, I support a reclassification of times for adult content programmes to 9.30 pm considering some students have their own TV in their rooms or on computer and are sometimes not monitored by their parents/caregivers.

Some TV programmes have become too violent and too explicit for many under 16 year olds. A good example is Naked Attraction on TV 2 this week. The values and content/speech are too explicit for many adults, let alone young people. Another one are action movies that overemphasize killing of multiple numbers of people, without any revulsion or psychological effects that would happen in a real violent situation.

It is time to remind media in our country to help our young people deal with self-esteem issues, bullying, unfair comparisons, advanced sexuality and suicide/depression. So, setting a higher standard of values as a society in media and elsewhere is important for the nation's well being and collective future.

Submitter: P Te Pou

To whom it may concern

My name is Patrick Te Pou. I am from [*personal information*] in the Eastern Bay of Plenty and [*personal information*].

I am concerned about the timebands and classification labels on free-to-air (FTA) television in New Zealand. Timebands have been used for years to prevent FTA audiences from viewing unsuitable content. But when it comes to watching television, everything has changed.

Most people don't always watch at the same time as the programmes go to air - they record and watch later, and parental locks are now available on FTA television. The Broadcasting Standards Authority (BSA) has different labels on pay television (SKY) and FTA television.

From my own point of view, I think FTA television will adopt the pay television classification labels (G, PG, M, 16, 18). These will replace the existing FTA labels (G, PGR, AO). Second, the change of timebands. If option 2 is chosen, the current PGR timeband will be adjusted (as listed below):

- G/PG (PGR) - screened at any time (with suitable classification and warnings and ability to set parental locks for PG content);
- M (PGR/AO) - screened after 7pm (broadcasters will adopt responsible programming principles, which means they will have regard to children's interests and usual viewing times when scheduling PG and M content);
- 16/18 (AO) - screened after 8.30pm (broadcasters will adopt responsible programming principles, which means they will have regard to children's interests and usual viewing times when scheduling 16 and 18 content).

To finish off, I think that the new FTA classification labels and the new timeband restrictions on FTA television will be appropriate for FTA audiences - especially to children.

Submitter: R Martin

To whom it may concern,

Re: Review of free-to-air TV timebands & classification labels

Please read the article written by Karl Puschmann on page A36 of the NZ Herald today regarding the above topic, and note that there are many other people (including myself, my husband, & many of our family members & friends) who feel the same as Karl about these issues.

Submitter: CM Knuckey

I'm writing in response to a TV1 news item that BSA is asking for public opinion into changes in current age appropriate programming.

I'm a Kindergarten teacher and plead that you leave it as is.

Many children are home alone, with more parents working and busy.

Children may be in the care of older siblings, cousins, step parents, who don't understand the impact that violence, sex, inappropriate language, and disrespectful behaviour have on the developing brain.

Often families who don't see the problem with children being exposed to this content, are the families most at risk of internal violence and abuse.

I have never known about the parental lock service being available on non-sky television.

And the parents who DO pay attention to what children view are perhaps in a minority.

Free television is exactly that - it should not depend on parental buy-in.

On-demand services depend on internet log-in - the responsibility of the administrator of the internet account.

The nature of free TV - being a tax-payer funded service, makes it imperative that you uphold the standards as they are.

It is a matter of social responsibility