

Mr Ian Bruce  
By email: [ibruce4@gmail.com](mailto:ibruce4@gmail.com)

ACMA file reference: BM-11847

Dear Mr Bruce

**RE: Your complaint about the ABC's coverage of International Men's Day**

Thank you for your email received by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) on 24 February 2023.

You have asked that I confirm advice in a response you received from the ACMA's Content Investigations team which related to your earlier complaint to the ABC about its compliance with the impartiality and diversity of perspectives obligations in its Code of Practice (Standard 4.2 of the ABC Code).

Standard 4.2 requires the ABC to present a diversity of perspectives so that, over time, no significant strand of thought or belief within the community is knowingly excluded or disproportionately represented.

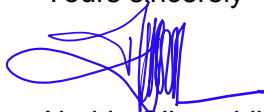
To the extent that your first complaint to the ACMA raised concerns about programming decisions made by the ABC, it was correct to characterise these as editorial decisions for the ABC over which the ACMA has no remit.

In your subsequent correspondence, you asked about the application of Standard 4.2 of the Code, in circumstances where a complaint is about the absence of programming on a particular perspective.

Standard 4.2 does not oblige the ABC to cover all possible matters and issues in its programming or broadcast programs relating to specific events or subject matter. It requires the ABC, where it has made an editorial decision to cover an issue, to ensure a diversity of perspectives is presented.

I therefore confirm our previous advice that this was an editorial decision of the ABC and does not fall within the ACMA's remit. I appreciate that you may take a different view. If you are not satisfied with the way we conducted ourselves in this matter, you can complain to the [Commonwealth Ombudsman](#).

Yours sincerely



Nerida O'Loughlin PSM  
11 April 2023