

Chronology of a Complaint about and to the ABC

24th February 2021

Copies of Complaints and Replies in Chronological Order

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Att-1

A COMPLAINT TO THE ABC 12/12/2022

Subject: The ABC's failure to adequately represent the interests of men in a balanced and fair way.

Your comments: I regularly watch ABC News 24 and ABC 20.

When International Women's Day came along on 8th March 2022 the ABC featured women's issues all day, and women's issues have continued to be highlighted incessantly throughout the year. However, when International Men's Day arrived on 19th November 2022, there was not one mention of it on ABC24 or ABC20.

I recorded the broadcasts on both channels from 7am to 9pm, and there was not one mention of International Men's Day.

This omission represents a failure to implement Part IV, Section 4 of the ABC Code of Practice, relating to impartiality and diversity of perspectives which states: ' no significant strand of thought or belief within the community is knowingly excluded or disproportionately represented.'

This could be put down to an 'oversight' if it were not for the incessant promotion of women's issues that we see every day on the ABC and the frequent massaging of facts and terminology so as to throw a favourable light on women and a shadow on men's welfare and issues.

Two examples of this are:

1. Misrepresenting of statistical data

On International Women's Day a report by CoreLogic, entitled 'Women & Property: One Year On', was featured in segments repeated many times throughout the day. (**online**) (**local copy**) The message being presented was that in Australia, men own more real estate than women, and because of the 'gender pay gap' 'men can save for a 20% home deposit a year earlier (on average) than women.

The term used was 'dwelling ownership', and the figures from the report were correctly given, from the perspective of having names on the deeds of property: Property ownership: men: 29.9%; women: 26.6%.

It is only when you actually read the Corelogic report (download link: <https://www.corelogic.com.au/news-research/reports/women-and-property-22>) that the limitations of these figures are revealed.

Only names on title deeds were considered and this information was not compared to the electoral rolls. So who was actually living in the properties (dwelling) and exercising the 'effective benefit of ownership' is an open question.

If you consider the facts that couples often buy a property together in the early years of the relationship whilst the female partner is not working whilst having children, then it is natural that the working partner may be the sole name of the deed to the property, (mortgage issues etc.), and the fact that after divorce, it is usual for the female partner to retain residency of the house and custody of the children. Note: there are over 56,000 divorces in Australia each year. Further, on the break-up of a relationship, division of property is the rule, regardless of whose name is on the deed to the marital home.

So given these facts, it is not reasonable to say that men 'own' more property in Australia than women, and certainly not to repeat the segment over and over as the ABC did on International Women's Day.

2. Selective use of gender specific terms

On the 12th September 2019, ABC News reported on a class action by 160 financial planners against the AMP. The reporter referred to the fact that the chairman of AMP was forced to resign as a result of the findings of the Banking Royal Commission. I was surprised, because the ABC is usually quick to de-genderise terms like 'chairman' to 'chairperson'.

The facts of this situation were that it was a 'chairwoman' who was forced to resign along with 3 female and 2 male board members.

Why did the ABC use the word 'chairman' instead of 'chairperson' or 'chairwoman'?

Conclusion

The above are just two examples of the selectivity and bias of ABC reporting when it comes to gender issues. But the same orientation (bias) is observable every day.

This is not just oversight or neglect, it amounts to definitive proof of a deliberate policy of misandry.

Ian Bruce 30th Dec. 2022

Att-2

From: News 24 Feedback
To: ibruce4@gmail.com
Feb 6, 2023, 9:38 AM

Dear Ian Bruce

Thank you for your email regarding ABC NEWS. We are pleased to read you watch ABC TV and ABC NEWS.

As you might not be aware, ABC iView created an International Men's Day collection, and it can be found here : <https://iview.abc.net.au/collection/2572>.

Your concerns there was no mention of International Men's Day 19.11.22 on ABC NEWS Channel has been noted. It appears stories leading the bulletin 19.11.22 were the flooding emergency in NSW in Condobolin, APEC Summit in Thailand, MH17 Verdict, Cassius Turvey's funeral and legacy, Victorian Electoral commission's investigation, and Twitter's workforce.

We would like to assure you the lack of coverage of this event is not an indication of sexism. ABC NEWS does not endorse any kind of discrimination.

ABC NEWS does not neglect issues that affect men. Last week - we published the story : Men are twice as likely to die from melanoma, research finds : <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-01-31/men-are-twice-as-likely-to-die-from-melanoma/101909870>. In addition to this there is a dedicated Men's Health tag <https://www.abc.net.au/news/topic/mens-health> .

The two examples that you provided are more than 90 days ago so we cannot investigate your concerns.

The ABC's Code of Practice can be found here <http://about.abc.net.au/reports-publications/code-of-practice/> .

Should you remain dissatisfied, you may be able to pursue your complaint with the Australian Communications and Media Authority, <http://www.acma.gov.au>.

Kind regards,

The team at ABC NEWS

Att-3

Note: The input box on the ACMA website has a maximum input of 4,000 characters. The complaint attachments were uploaded in a pdf file.

COMPLAINT TO THE AUSTRALIAN COMMUNICATION MEDIA AUTHORITY 17/02/2023

I recently submitted a complaint to the ABC (see **attachment 1** in attached pdf) which suggested that their programming was not adhering to Part IV, Section 4 of the ABC Code of Practice (relating to impartiality and diversity of perspectives which states: 'no significant strand of thought or belief within the community is knowingly excluded or disproportionately represented').

In particular I complained that whilst the ABC gives extensive coverage to International Women's Day, for the past 2 years, when International Men's Day (19th November) arrived, no mention of the occasion was made (whatsoever) on the two most prominent ABC TV channels (ABC20 & ABC24).

I have received a reply to my complaint from the 'The team at ABC NEWS' (see **attachment 2** in attached pdf) that does not address my basic complaint at all. They do acknowledge that the event was not mentioned at all on TV but point to an 'International Men's Day collection' iview page. They also state: 'We would like to assure you the lack of coverage of this event is not an indication of sexism. ABC NEWS does not endorse any kind of discrimination.'

The dedicated 'Men's Day' iview page has links to various male-oriented stories (see **attachment 3** in attached pdf) that have been shown over the years – nothing recent. And the page is only accessible if you have the absolute address for it (<https://iview.abc.net.au/collection/2572>). You can't find the page by searching for 'International Men's Day' (see **attachment 4** in attached pdf).

I think the slovenly and haughty nature of the ABC reply indicates an attitude of contempt for anyone who dares to questions the unbiased and fair nature of ABC news reporting and is sadly, a further proof that the ABC is following a deliberate policy of misandry. There can be no other explanation.

Yours Faithfully,

Ian Bruce
ibruce4@gmail.com

P.S. Please see the attached pdf of my full complaint to access the attachments.

Attachment 3:

I followed the reference given for '**International Men's Day**' (Link: <https://iview.abc.net.au/collection/2572>). It listed many articles, all to do with a man or men, but the only mention of 'International Men's Day' was in a small caption at the top of the screen. The first 8 are as follows:

1. 'A Fortunate Life' - Paul Hogan (Part 1) Paul Hogan (Link: <https://iview.abc.net.au/show/australian-story/series/2019/video/NC1902Q022S00>)
2. 'A Fortunate Life' - Paul Hogan (Part 2) Paul Hogan (Link: <https://iview.abc.net.au/show/australian-story/series/2019/video/NC1902Q023S00>) (Plays with an echo)
3. 'You Can't Ask That' Series 6 ex-footballers (Link: <https://iview.abc.net.au/show/you-can-t-ask-that/series/6/video/LE1921H002S00>)
4. 'Ageless Friendships' Series 3 episode 3 Connecting through play People from aged care homes interacting with toddlers/young kids in a play group. All of the old people are women. (Link: <https://iview.abc.net.au/show/ageless-friendships/series/3/video/DC2104H003S00>)
5. New Dads Not bad. 5 men 'navigating the first year of being a dad'. (Link: <https://iview.abc.net.au/show/new-dads/video/RN1811H026S00>)
6. Australian Story 'Art of the Possible' Vincent Fantauzzo went from menial jobs and petty crime to painting portraits of Heath Ledger, Julia Gillard and wife Asher Keddie. He describes his dyslexia as a gift allowing him to see the world from a unique perspective. (Link: <https://iview.abc.net.au/show/australian-story/series/2019/video/NC1902Q030S00>)
7. 'Man Up' Radio star, Gus Worland, is on a mission to break the silence around male suicide. But first, he has to challenge our ideas about what it means to be an Aussie man. Series was shown in 2016 (Link: <https://iview.abc.net.au/show/man-up/series/1/video/DO1504H001S00>)
8. Australian Story 'Beating the Blues' Rugby league player Greg Inglis with depression. (Link: <https://iview.abc.net.au/show/few-good-blokes/series/0/video/IV1919H001S00>)

Attachment 4:

A search of the ABC iview site for the term 'International Men's Day' yields a lot of results, but the only mention of 'International Men's Day' is what I typed into the search box:

1. 'Re-Frame 2022 Short Films' featuring people with disabilities (Link: <https://iview.abc.net.au/show/re-frame-2022-short-films/series/0/video/RK2201H006S00>)
2. Re-Frame 2022 The diversity of disability -- Disability led films (Link: <https://iview.abc.net.au/show/re-frame-2022/video/RF2201H001S00>)
3. Re-Frame 2021 International Day of People with Disability (Link: <https://iview.abc.net.au/show/re-frame-2021>)

4. Australia Day Live 2023 2H 6M Australia Day Concert at the Sydney opera House (**Link:** <https://iview.abc.net.au/show/australia-day-live-2023>)
5. Australia Day: National Citizenship Ceremony 2023 1H 21M (**Link:** <https://iview.abc.net.au/show/australia-day-national-citizenship-ceremony-2023>)
6. Brian Cox: Seven Days on Mars The Perseverance rover's search for life on Mars (**Link:** <https://iview.abc.net.au/show/brian-cox-seven-days-on-mars>)
7. Governor-General's Australia Day Message 2023 (**Link:** v)
8. 'The Many Days of Anzac' 57M. Narrator notes that in 1915 Australia had a chauvanistic attitude to women. He comments that those who went over to fight in the First World War were 'mostly men'. A quick fact check shows that of the 419,809 citizens who went overseas, 3,000 of them were women (nurses), that is 0.715%, and they were nursing not fighting. 100% of the men were fighting and they comprised 99.285% of Australians who went overseas. I think the term 'mostly men' is a gross understatement. (**Link:** <https://iview.abc.net.au/show/many-days-of-anzac>)

Att-4

from: Fiona Ross

to: ibruce4@gmail.com

date: Feb 20, 2023, 3:11 PM

subject: RE: Your complaint about the ABC's coverage of International Men's Day
[SEC=OFFICIAL]

ACMA reference: BM-11847

Dear Ian Bruce

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

Thank you for your webform complaint received 17 February 2023.

Your concern is that the ABC extensively covered International Women's Day but did not effectively cover International Men's Day.

While we acknowledge your concern and your reference to the impartiality provisions of the ABC Code, choices regarding programming and the news stories the ABC chooses to broadcast is an editorial decision for the ABC and does not fall within the ACMA's remit. In future, if you wish to make a Code complaint please note you must identify a specific program including the program name / date / time and also explain why you believe the specific program has breached the ABC Code.

Code complaints need to be made to the ABC within 6 weeks of the date of broadcast. We hope this information assists you.

Yours sincerely,

Fiona

Content Investigations Section
Australian Communications and Media Authority
E broadcasting@acma.gov.au
W acma.gov.au