

To: The Program Manager  
Channel 10  
PO Box 1010  
NORTH ADELAIDE SA 5006

5 September 2007

Fax: 8225 1011

From: Mrs Roslyn Phillips, National Research Officer  
Festival of Light Australia  
4th Floor, 68 Grenfell Street  
ADELAIDE SA 5000  
Phone 1300 365 965

Home phone: 8264 5398

**COMPLAINT: *Californication* (Channel 10, Adelaide)**

**Broadcast:** Monday 29/8/07, 9.30 pm; Sunday 2/9/07, 10.10 pm; Monday 3/9/07, 9.30 pm

*Californication* was produced in the US for a cable channel and was not designed for free-to-air television. The first two episodes breach the Australian Commercial Television Industry Code of Practice by including very frequent very coarse language and by provoking severe ridicule against the Christian faith (in particular the Catholic church) and by showing a 16 year old girl (under the age of consent in South Australia) relishing sex with a much older man - effectively child pornography.

We have received complaints from parents who have not allowed their own children to watch *Californication* - but their teenage children have been affected by schoolyard comments from other children who have watched it. The advice often given to "switch it off if you don't like it" is no protection.

The first episode (29 August, 2 September) was particularly offensive to Christians because of its opening scene where a nun is shown fellating the main character (Hank) in a church. This scene contravenes the Commercial Television Industry Code of Practice which says that a licensee may not broadcast a program that is likely to "provoke ... severe ridicule against a person or group ... on the grounds of ... religion ..." (*Proscribed Material*, 1.8.6, p 3). The second episode also breaches 1.8.6 of the Code - where Hank's 12 year old daughter brags to him about wearing her "Jesus is a C-word" T-shirt.

Both episodes contain very frequent very coarse language. In some scenes the "f" word is used in almost every sentence. This breaches the Mature Audience (MA 15+) classification (5.3) which says that the use of very coarse language must be appropriate to the story line or program context and not overly frequent or impactful. The extreme frequency of the "f" word is not required by the *Californication* story line and seems to be designed primarily to cause shock.

Both episodes feature the theme of a 16 year old girl relishing sex with a much older man - constituting child pornography which is prohibited throughout Australia.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Roslyn Phillips  
National Research Officer