



Australian Tamil Broadcasting Corporation

P O Box 4787, North Rocks, NSW 2151

Phone: 02 9688 3188

<http://www.atbc.net.au>

Fax: 02 9688 3488

ATBC Code of Practice

Australian Tamil Broadcasting Corporation (ATBC) has adopted many of the Radio Code of Practice defined by Community Broadcasting Association of Australia (CBA).

Following Key Code of practices will apply to the functioning of ATBC,

1 Responsibilities of Broadcasting to the Community

The purpose of this code is to define the unique philosophy of community broadcasting and to ensure that this perspective is reflected in the day-to-day operations and programming of community broadcasting services.

ATBC will:

- 1.1 Provide their services in the public interest particularly to the Tamil Australians.
- 1.2 Operate on a non-profit basis.
- 1.3 Have mechanisms to provide for active participation by that community in its management, development and operations.
- 1.4 Incorporate programming policies, which oppose and attempt to break down prejudice on the basis of race, sex, nationality, religion, disability, ethnic background, age or sexual preference.
- 1.5 Establish programming practices, which protect children from harmful program material.
- 1.6 Be the Community Radio station which unites Tamil diaspora all over the world
- 1.7 Contribute to the preservation and development of Tamil culture
- 1.8 Present programs, which contribute to expanding the variety of viewpoints broadcast in Australia and enhance the diversity of programming choices available to the general public.
- 1.9 Seek to widen the community's involvement in broadcasting and to encourage participation by those denied effective access to, and those not adequately served by, other media.

2 Guidelines For General Programming

The purpose of the code is to reflect the need to avoid and break down prejudice and discrimination, and to prevent the broadcasting of material, which is contrary to community standards, government regulations, and the principles of community broadcasting.

2.1 ATBC shall not broadcast material which may:

- (a) incite, encourage or present for their own sake violence or brutality;
- (b) simulate news or events in such a way as to mislead or alarm listeners; or
- (c) present as desirable the misuse of drugs including alcohol, narcotics and tobacco.



2.2 ATBC will avoid censorship wherever possible, however, consideration shall be given to the audience; the context; the degree of explicitness; the propensity to alarm, distress or shock; and the social importance of the event.

2.3 ATBC shall not broadcast material which may stereotype, incite, vilify, or perpetuate hatred against, or attempt to demean any person or group on the basis of ethnicity, nationality, race, gender, sexual preference, religion, age or physical or mental disability.

Guidelines For News And Current Affairs Programs

These guidelines are intended to promote accuracy and fairness in news and current affairs programs.

News and current affairs programs (including news flashes) should:

- (a) provide access to views under-represented by the mainstream media;
- (b) present factual material accurately and ensure that reasonable efforts are made to correct substantial errors of fact at the earliest possible opportunity;
- (c) clearly distinguish factual material from commentary and analysis;
- (d) not present news in such a way as to create public panic or unnecessary distress to listeners;
- (e) not misrepresent a viewpoint by giving misleading emphasis, editing out of context or withholding relevant available facts;
- (f) respect each person's legitimate right to protection from unjustified use of material which is obtained without an individual's consent or other unwarranted and intrusive invasions of privacy;
- (g) not broadcast the words of an identifiable person unless;
 - (i) that person has been informed in advance that the words may be transmitted; or
 - (ii) in the case of words which have been recorded without the knowledge of the person, the person has subsequently, but prior to the transmission, indicated consent to the transmission of the words; or
 - (iii) the manner of the recording has made it manifestly clear that the material may be broadcast.



3 Sponsorship

When sponsorships are obtained for ATBC it will,

- 3.1 Ensure that sponsorship will not be a factor in determining access to broadcasting time.
- 3.2 Ensure that the content and style of individual programs is not influenced by the sponsors of programs.
- 3.3 Ensure that overall programming of community broadcasting stations is not influenced by sponsors.

4 Volunteers

The purpose of this code is to recognise the reliance on volunteer workers for its continued operation and to ensure that the rights and responsibilities regarding volunteering are addressed.

4.1 ATBC will have guidelines in place that outline:

- (a) the principles of volunteering;
- (b) the rights and responsibilities of volunteers within the organisation.

5 Conflict Resolution

The purpose of this code is to prescribe appropriate methods of dealing with internal disputes and conflict resolution. Conflict is the situation where the goals, values, interests or opinions of one group or individual are incompatible with or perceived to be incompatible with, those of another individual or group.

- 5.1 ATBC will have mechanisms, which will facilitate conflict resolution within their organisation. It will make every reasonable effort to resolve disputes conscientiously and as soon as practicable.
- 5.2 ATBC will negotiate for dispute resolution by managing discussion between disputants, which is aimed to bring about agreement or a settlement of opposing demands or attitudes.
- 5.3 In the event of an unresolved dispute, ATBC will seek appropriate alternative dispute resolution mechanisms (for example, mediation, conciliation or arbitration) via the Executive Advisory Committee



6 Handling Complaints

The purpose of this code is to prescribe the manner in which complaints and other comments from members of the public will be dealt with.

6.1 ATBC acknowledge the rights of their audiences to comment and make complaints concerning:

- (a) compliance with the Codes of Practice;
- (b) program content; and
- (c) the general service provided to the community.

6.2 ATBC will make every reasonable effort to resolve complaints, except where a complaint is clearly frivolous, vexatious or not made in good faith.

6.3 ATBC will make appropriate arrangements to ensure that:

- (a) complaints will be received by a responsible person in normal office hours;
- (b) complaints will be conscientiously considered, investigated if necessary and responded to as soon as practicable; and
- (c) complaints will be promptly acknowledged and normally answered within six weeks from receipt of the complaint.

6.4 Responses to written complaints will be in writing and will include a copy of the Code of Practice on handling complaints.

6.5 If the complainant indicates dissatisfaction with the response of the licensee, the licensee will advise the complainant of their right to refer the matter to the Australian Broadcasting Authority.

6.6 A record of complaints in a permanent form will be maintained by Station Manager

6.7 ATBC will undertake to pass on all comments from the public, made in good faith, both complimentary and critical, to the individuals responsible for preparing and presenting the program(s) concerned.