



MINISTER FOR THE MEDIA
CANBERRA, A.C.T.

15 JUL 1975



Dear Mr. Willis,

I refer to your letter to my predecessor, Senator Douglas McClelland, concerning school age students and the matter of betting on horses and other forms of racing which are featured on radio and television.

Initially I should explain that commercial broadcasting and television stations should observe program standards determined by the Australian Broadcasting Control Board, which, as you will be aware, is an independent statutory authority established by Parliament under the Broadcasting and Television Act to oversee the operations of commercial broadcasting and television stations. At the same time, the Australian Broadcasting Commission has regard to the principles of the Board's standards in the presentation of the programs of the national stations.

I have discussed your letter with the Chairman of the Board, Mr. M.F.E. Wright. Mr. Wright informs me that, although the Board's standards reflect the undesirability of broadcasting dialogue, narrative or descriptive matter which unduly emphasises betting or might tend directly to promote interest in gambling, it is, nevertheless, recognised that certain forms of gambling may form an accepted part of the social structure. For this reason the Board places no prohibition on racing broadcasts. It might also be mentioned that racing is a legal activity and that there is no restriction placed on the entry of children to a race meeting.

The Chairman also informs me that the Board expects that parents will exercise their responsibility as to the suitability of programs for their children.

Thank you for bringing this matter to notice.

Yours sincerely,

(Moss Cass)

Minister for the Media

Mr. E. A. Willis,
Minister for Education,
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SYDNEY, N.S.W. 2001