

From: [Broadcasting](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Your complaint about *Four Corners* - episode 'Infiltrating Australia' broadcast by the ABC on 17 June 2024 [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Tuesday, 24 December 2024 10:45:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

ACMA file reference: BM-14129

Dear [REDACTED],

RE: Your complaint about *Four Corners* - episode 'Infiltrating Australia' broadcast by the ABC on 17 June 2024

Thank you for complaint about the compliance of *Four Corners* - episode 'Infiltrating Australia' with the accuracy and impartiality provisions of the ABC Code of Practice 2024 (the **ABC Code**).

We appreciate that this matter is of concern to you and thank you for your patience while we assessed your complaint.

When we receive a complaint about a broadcast, we weigh up a number of factors to help us decide whether to investigate further. These include the specifics and merits of the matter, the nature and seriousness of the issue, the matter's potential to affect the community, and its priority in relation to other matters.

The ABC Code states the ABC will make reasonable efforts to ensure that material facts are accurate and presented in context.

When determining the accuracy of a factual statement under the ABC Code, the ACMA will consider relevant contextual factors including the type, subject, and nature of the content, the likely audience expectations of the content and the circumstances in which the content was made and presented. The requirement for accuracy does not apply to expressions of opinion.

The ABC Code states the ABC will gather and present news and information with due impartiality.

Under the Code, the ABC is not precluded from making a critical examination of an issue in a current affairs program such as *Four Corners*.

The ACMA notes that impartiality does not require that every perspective receives equal time, nor that every facet of every argument is presented. Assessing the impartiality due in given circumstances, requires consideration in context of all relevant factors including the type, subject and nature of the content; the likely audience expectations of the content and the degree to which the content is contentious.

Having reviewed a copy of the broadcast, the ACMA notes that the program, titled 'Infiltrating Australia' concerned the influence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government in Australia. Topics included Prime Minister Modi's popularity in India and amongst the Australian Indian community. The program contained interviews with a number of people who recounted their knowledge of or experiences with the Indian government.

A range of perspectives were included in the program including those from Dr Priya Chacko, Associate Professor of International Politics, University of Adelaide, journalist Mandeep Punia, Major Gaurav Arya, writer and commentator, Ankur Patel, from the group Overseas Friends of the BJP who spoke about their community work and Moninder Singh, a Sikh activist. The reporter interviewed a pro-Khalistan advocate while noting some groups had been designated terrorists by the Indian government.

Other topics explored in the program included an examination of groups supportive of the Indian government in Australia, the uncovering of a spy ring by the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation and the work of the HSS. A former HSS camp leader, Arjun Nidigallu was interviewed and recounted his experiences running HSS camps while the reporter referred to an HSS spokesperson who had noted their charity work.

The program also explored the Australian government's relationship with Prime Minister Modi, showing his visit to Sydney at the Qudos Bank Arena. Included were comments from Senator David Shoebridge, Foreign Minister, Senator the Hon Penny Wong and Australian Prime Minister, the Hon Anthony Albanese MP who spoke positively of Prime Minister Modi as 'the Boss'.

Having carefully reviewed your complaint, the ABC Ombudsman's response, a copy of the broadcast and the relevant rules in the ABC Code and considering the relevant public interest considerations we have decided to take no further action.

However, we have logged your complaint in our database to help us identify potential recurring or systemic issues with legislation, codes of practice and standards.

You can find out more about our approach to broadcast investigations on the [ACMA website](#).

If you have concerns about the way we have handled this matter, you can contact the [Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman](#) or seek independent advice.

Thank you again for your concern and for bringing this matter to our attention.

Yours sincerely,



Content Investigations Section

Australian Communications and Media Authority

broadcasting@acma.gov.au

www.acma.gov.au

