

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2016
Communications Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 54

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Hansard Ref: Written, 12/02/2016

Topic: Heads apologise in relation to child abuse

Senator Abetz, Eric asked:

In recent times we have had the heads of various institutions rightfully apologise for their inaction and views expressed by predecessors in relation to child abuse.

- a) Is the ABC considering a similar apology for the views expressed by its former Chairman (Richard Downing) who expressed views as Chairman and whilst Chairman of the ABC, to wit 'in general men will sleep with young boys and that's the sort of thing the community ought to know about'? and;
- b) For its 14th July, 1975 program called Lateline in which Richard Neville presented a program on pederasty where three adult men spoke in favour of pederasty and no one against it.

Answer:

1. No. The ABC considers child abuse is a legitimate news and current affairs subject and it will continue to cover it where relevant in accordance with its Editorial and Charter responsibilities.