

The Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts

Sir/Madam,

I am writing as a father of 4 children aged 12, 10, 8 and 2.

Over the years I have seen the standards of TV and radio decline to the extent that now in "family" viewing/listening time (before 8:30 pm), I have to be vigilant in case anything sexual, violent or profane suddenly emerges - and this happens quite often. I can no longer relax and let my children watch TV, for example, without having the remote control ready! There is little doubt the standards have changed, albeit incremental and slowly. If it was sudden, it would not have been allowed.

Lets look at foul language. I recall when foul language and swearing would not have been permitted but this happens quite regularly now. I find it astonishing that the F word is not beeped out.

And then there is sexually explicit (soft porn) commercials that occasionally come up, TV shows within the "family" timeslot, while not always explicit, but have sexual connotations. This should be left to late night viewing.

Also, listening to FM radio while in the car can be embarrassing if children are with you. During the day, there is absolutely no warning that the presenters will talk about sexual matters. This is very hard to censure at a moments time.

I do believe that children need to be protected from premature exposure to sexual and crude material, material that should not be aired AT LEAST before 8:30 pm.

Yours sincerely,

Marc Florio