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ABC
Australian Broadcasting Corporation
Television

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Dear Andrew,

Thank you for your letter undated and received in my office on 12 February regarding the screening of the documentary "*Hope in a Slingshot*" on ABC TV.

I do appreciate your further comments, however, ABC TV's view remains unchanged.

As outlined in our correspondence to you of 10 December, 2009 the ABC has taken the view that the documentary "*Hope in a Slingshot*" is an opinion - or point of view - program about the ongoing conflict between Israelis and Palestinians.

The ABC Editorial Policies allow the ABC to engage with point of view documentaries about contentious subjects:

Clause (6.1) "Opinion content is commissioned or acquired to provide a particular perspective or point of view... Such content can add to public understanding and debate on issues"

The documentary clearly meets the requirement of having a particular point of view, and relating to a matter of contention and public debate.

However under the Editorial Policies ABC TV is also required to meet an impartiality requirement. Given the documentary reports on the issue from a particular perspective ABC TV is required to demonstrate impartiality in coverage across a network or platform by

Clause 6.6.3 "... providing content of a similar type and weight and in an appropriate time – frame."

The ABC has not been able to access content which would put an alternative view and therefore we would be unable to meet the impartiality requirement.

As advised in previous correspondence, for the above reasons ABC TV is unfortunately unable to screen "*Hope in a Slingshot*" at this time.

Yours sincerely

Kim Dalton
Director Television