

Thank you for your email regarding the Q&A episode *Trauma and Truth-Telling*.

Your complaint has been investigated by Audience and Consumer Affairs, a unit which is separate to and independent of program making areas within the ABC. We have considered your concerns and information provided by the program, reviewed the content and assessed it against the ABC's editorial standards for *impartiality*.

We observe the segment on the Middle East presented two audience questions from the Israeli perspective and that a range of views were presented by the panellists, each of whom rigorously and passionately debated the issues surrounding the recent outbreak of violence. While Randa Abdel-Fattah and Jennifer Robinson criticised aspects of Israeli government policy, Australia's former Ambassador to Israel, Dave Sharma MP eloquently addressed and contested the claims of Ms Abdel-Fatah and provided an informed perspective on Israel's actions and decisions.

We are satisfied it was made clear that Ms Abdel-Fattah's view was strongly contested, that the opposing view justifying Israel's actions was prominently presented and the challenging nature of the discussion would have been insightful and illuminating for the program's audience. For these reasons, we are satisfied that a range of principal relevant perspectives were presented on the issue, and that no one view was unduly favoured over any other in the broadcast.

We cannot agree with your claim that there was an editorial obligation on the program to present the perspective of an Australian Jewish pro-Israel advocate. The editorial obligation on the program was to present a diversity of relevant perspectives on the issue, and to not unduly favour any one of those perspectives over any other.

Nevertheless, the program has explained to Audience and Consumer Affairs that it approached the Israeli Embassy to invite Ambassador Jonathan Peled to participate in the program, but he was unable to travel to Sydney for the recording. The Embassy recommended the program contact Mr Alex Ryvchin, the CO-CEO of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, who also declined an invitation to participate as an expert audience member, who would be invited to contribute to the segment by asking a question and expressing his perspective from the audience.

Your reaction to the broadcast has been brought to the attention of ABC News management.

The ABC Code of Practice is available online at the attached link;  
<http://about.abc.net.au/reports-publications/code-of-practice/>.

Should you be dissatisfied with this response to your complaint, you may be able to pursue the matter with the Australian Communications and Media Authority <http://www.acma.gov.au>