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From: ABC Corporate_Affairs5>

Subject: Four Corners

Dear Professor Whitehall

Thank you for your email regarding the *Four Corners* report *Not a boy, Not a girl*.

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 *accuracy* and *impartiality*.

The newsworthy focus of this *Four Corners* report was the personal stories of some young Australians who do not identify as either male or female, in order to gain an understanding of their lives and experiences. In their own words they explained how they negotiate the world and the judgement of others. The broadcast also presented the relevant perspectives of their parents, talking about what it's like to raise a gender-neutral child. With forthright honesty they talked about deeply private decisions they have made about their bodies.

We are satisfied there was no editorial requirement, within this context, for the program to present the information you personally believe should have been presented in the broadcast. It is important to understand that *impartiality* does not require that every facet or aspect of a broad or



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complex issue is presented. This report was clearly focused on the personal stories of the young people and their families. Having carefully reviewed the broadcast, we are satisfied that *Four Corners* did not “promote” anything.

It was made clear in the report that medical treatments undertaken by the children had commenced after careful consideration of the professional medical advice and close consultation between the families and medical experts.

The ABC understands that in response to complaints that had raised opposition to healthcare for transgender children, the Royal Australasian College of Physicians reviewed the Australian Standards of Care and Treatment Guidelines, which included the treatment using puberty blockers, gender affirming hormones and surgical intervention. The RACP supported the Australian Standards of Care and Treatment Guidelines which, among other things, recommends the professional administration of puberty suppression, gender affirming hormones and surgery.

The RACP recommended against a national inquiry into gender dysphoria and made suggestions to improve care to young trans people. We note the RACP released a statement, which included the following -

The RACP strongly supports expert clinical care that is non-judgemental, supportive and welcoming for children, adolescents and their families



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experiencing gender dysphoria. Children and adolescents with gender dysphoria are a very vulnerable population, experiencing stigma and extremely high rates of depression, self-harm, attempted suicide and suicide.

Ensuring children and adolescents with gender dysphoria can access appropriate care and treatment regardless of where they live, should be a national priority. Withholding or limiting access to care and treatment would be unethical and would have serious impacts on the health and wellbeing of young people.

Four Corners confirmed that in its comprehensive consideration of the issue, the RACP consulted widely with experts including paediatricians, endocrinologists, researchers and bioethics experts.

Please be assured that the information you personally believe should have been presented in the broadcast is noted. Your reaction to the program has been brought to the attention of *Four Corners* and 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



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Australian Communications and Media Authority [http://
www.acma.gov.au](http://www.acma.gov.au)

Yours sincerely

Kieran Doyle
Audience and Consumer Affairs



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