ABC Television Response to Editorial Review No. 5

Higher Education Coverage on the ABC

ABC Television has read Mr Harris' comments on the Q&A program of 30 March with care and is appreciative of his thoughtful comments.

We note that he found the program 'did not evidence any departure from ABC standards' and contained no 'major issues of impartiality'. Mr Harris has made some interesting, supplementary remarks on the information available to viewers on the composition of the studio audience and on issues around moderation, transparency and accountability for the Twitter stream included on the screen during the program.

Since the receipt of this draft report, a further review into the Q&A program itself has been commissioned by the ABC Board and those matters raised by Mr Harris will be specifically addressed within the terms of reference for that review. In that light, I would be very happy for Mr Harris' observations to be forwarded to the Q&A review as it may assist deliberations.

Richard Finlayson Director ABC Television