

20 January 2026
Ombudsman mid-year update

In the six-months to 31 December 2025, the ABC received 7,261 written complaints, a decrease of 26% on the same time in the previous year. The lower number year on year, reflects the number of complaints received about changes to the ABC Sydney Local radio line-up in December 2024.

Complaints about content broadcast or published on ABC platforms (as distinct from general complaints such as audience preference or taste) increased to 3,043 and were dominated by concerns expressed about the ABC’s coverage of events in the Middle East. Most of these complaints related to bias or lack of balance with 51% of the audience concerned ABC content was broadly pro-Palestine and 47% believing the coverage was pro-Israel.

585 complaint issues were either resolved (567) or breached (18) as a result of an Ombudsman investigation. The 18 breach findings relate to complaints received about eight distinct articles or broadcasts:

- 8 in relation to a News Online story and Facebook post about e-scooters and pedestrian deaths. Report [here](#).
- 3 about an error across ABC News Finance broadcasts discussing a Canadian ad which included former US President Ronald Reagan criticising the use of tariffs. Report [here](#).
- 2 in relation to a Halloween post on ABC Indigenous social. Report [here](#).
- 1 re disclosure of personal information in an ABC News report. See [here](#).
- 1 re inadequate content warning on an alleged sexual assault. Report [here](#)
- 3 separate breaches re different News Online stories, [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

Complaints - July to December 2025

Complaints	Jul-Dec 24	%	Jul-Dec 25	%
Total¹	9,836		7,261	
General	7,828	80%	4,218	58%
Content	2,008	20%	3,043	42%
Content complaint issues²				
Investigated	2,375		3,664	
No breach	1,512	64%	1,990	54%
Resolved	1,268	84%	1,405	71%
Breach	232	15%	567	28%
Breach	12	1%	18	1%

¹The number of single complaints (may contain more than one issue)

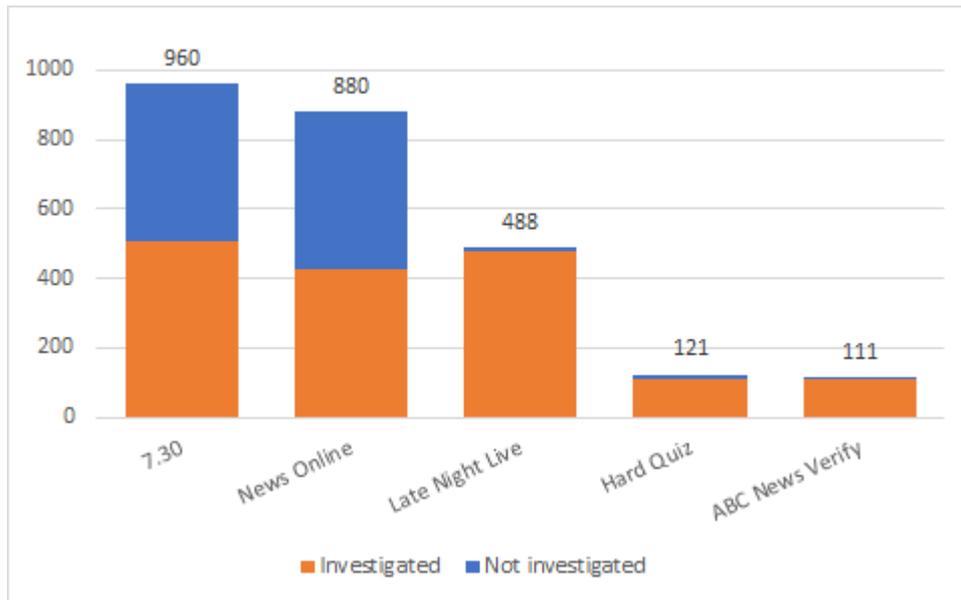
²The number of issues identified in content complaints

The single largest topic of complaint was Middle East coverage, which included the most complained about single item of content: a *Late Night Live* discussion with Chris Hedges that raised 468 issues from 234 separate complaints (issues resolved – report

linked below). The second most complained about topic was coverage related to the Bondi terror attack (440 in the period), which included 395 complaints about an interview with Josh Frydenberg.

While reporting of the Middle East and the Bondi terror attack attracted the most complaints, there were no breaches in relation to this coverage during the period.

The top five most complained about programs or platforms are represented below:



7.30: complaints include:

- Josh Frydenberg interview (395 issues raised, no breach – program responded [here](#)).
- Hasan Piker interview (136 issues raised, no breach – report [here](#)).
- Story re Zohran Mamdani (124 issues raised, no breach – report [here](#)).
- Amichai Chikli interview (60 issues raised, no breach – report [here](#)).
- Mick Huckabee interview (46 issues raised, no breach – report [here](#)).
- interview with Sussan Ley (34 issues raised, no breach – report [here](#)).

Other matters

- News Online: 354 related to Middle East coverage, including story post-Gaza ceasefire (182 issues raised, no breach – report [here](#)).
- *Late Night Live*: discussion with Chris Hedges (468 issues raised, resolved – report [here](#)).
- *Hard Quiz*: concerns of antisemitism (104 issues raised, no breach – report [here](#)).
- *ABC News Verify*: that an article ‘rationalised’ Hamas’s brutality (108 issues raised, no breach – report [here](#)).

Investigation Reports of all complaints breached or resolved are published [here](#) and [here](#). Investigation Reports of significant no breach matters are published [here](#).