

NZ On Air
Irirangi Te Motu



2nd Floor
54-56 Cambridge Terrace
PO Box 9744
Wellington 6141
New Zealand

info@nzonair.govt.nz
www.nzonair.govt.nz

18 November 2011

Tel: 04 382 9524
Fax: 04 382 9546

Sussan Turner
Managing Director
MediaWorks
PO Box 92624
Symonds St
Auckland 1150

Dear Sussan

It has just come to our attention that the programme *Inside Child Poverty: A Special Report*, which we funded as *The Price Of Milk*, is to be screened next Tuesday, namely just a few days out from the General Election.

The topic of child poverty is an important one and we were pleased to be able to support the proposal when it came to us in June of this year. We expect the documentary will be a professional production which acknowledges that this problem has been with us for many years under successive governments.

Even so, the fact that the issue of child poverty has become an election campaign issue, and that the documentary is scheduled just a few days before voting takes place, places NZ On Air in a difficult position.

We are jealous of our reputation as a politically neutral and impartial agency and put considerable effort into protecting that reputation. We take pains to ensure that we do not put ourselves in a position where we can be accused of political bias.

We are deeply disappointed that TV3 has decided to screen this documentary just days before a General Election. We feel that this risks damaging NZ On Air's reputation and calls into question our political impartiality.

While we do not interfere in editorial content, and do not involve ourselves in your scheduling decisions, we want to make clear the extent of our discomfort and disappointment with the scheduling of this programme at this time.

Yours sincerely

Jane Wrightson
Chief Executive

Supporting local content

1 (6)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT