

to qualify for taxpayer-funded legal aid. It also raised the point that despite P dealers making millions of money illegally, they can still get legal aid.

- Lack of Asian perspectives. I started my research by asking, “why do we have an Asian Crime Unit?” Is not that in itself racist? The crime aspect of the article was clearly about Asians who commit crime. I asked the head of the Asian Crime Unit if I could go out on a day with officers to talk to Asian criminals but was not allowed to. The article was not about Asian victims of crime. That’s not to say it’s not a valid subject for an article, but this was not about that. I never “interviewed” Charles Chan – he came on the phone unrequested when I talked to Lincoln Tan of iBall, but had nothing to add. I never spoke to Pansy Wong – her secretary informed me by email she could not help with the article.
- I’m confused by Mabbett’s complaint. On the one hand he objects because the article singles out Asian criminals, on the other hand he complains that I didn’t single out Asian victims, or single out Asian liaison officers. No doubt there are hundreds of police officers who could have added to the story – I do not have the time, resources, or word space to include them all.
- Mabbett asserts that Zhang and Chan did not suit my thesis – I had no “thesis”. I interview many people for my articles, and many of them don’t make it to print, mainly because of space restrictions. I have consulted, again, my notes and Justin Zhang repeated essentially what Rosemary Jones of Wellington said, and because *North & South* is a national magazine, I chose someone from Wellington. Also, Zhang was mainly concerned with talking about himself and his business, perhaps because he’d recently been profiled in the *Herald*, so this was both repetitive of other media, and superfluous to the article I was writing. It would have introduced another element and confused the reader.
- Why is it a “sensitive issue”? Mabbett does not explain this, as he couldn’t explain it on National Radio’s Media Watch. Is it sensitive because he is Asian and I am not? Would the same article, written by an Asian journalist, have received the same complaints? Lincoln Tan recently wrote a column criticising Asians for not talking to the media, not going on the record, providing fake photographs so they will “look prettier”, or not wanting to be identified. Was that sensitive? Has Mabbett complained to the Press Council that Tan’s column “objectifies Asians”?
- Crime stories. Yes of course you could find three years’ of crime stories and select any ethnic group, and I have done that in the past when I wrote a story for *North & South* on child abuse (James Whakaruru’s death) and listed all the Maori child abuse crimes. But this story, as I’ve stated, was about the negative aspects of Asian immigration and the criminal coverage started from the question, why an Asian Crime Unit? It was about crimes hitherto mainly alien to New Zealand – secretive, underworld, gang crimes where profit is the prime motive. The article clearly states that, not as an opinion from me, but an observation from the experts