

have won numerous Qantas awards, including the 2002 Senior Feature Writer of the Year and the 2003 Qantas Press Fellow to Wolfson College, Cambridge University. I have also won the NZI Financial Journalism Award, the Westpac Financial Journalism Award, been runner-up in the Peace Media Awards, and I have eight other Qantas awards for feature writing. I have been a feature writer for *North & South*, on and off, since 1986. I have written features for *Metro* magazine, *National Business Review*, the *Independent*, and the *Herald on Sunday*. I have also worked in radio for BBC Worldservice, and NewstalkZB.

Mabbett's letter to the Press Council quotes the principles of accuracy and discrimination. However, he has not shown any factual errors in my article, just dispute over interpretation of crime apprehension statistics, and objections to language and descriptions used.

I also note that Principle Eight states that discrimination is not objected to, "where it is relevant and in the public interest". As stated earlier, the first question I asked when investigating Asian crime was, "why an Asian Crime Unit"?

I also note Principle Seven: "A publication is entitled to adopt a forthright stance and advocate a position on any issue."

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### Tze Ming Mok

Virtually the same points as Mabbett, already covered, but in addition:

- Asiatic, Mok states, is "a police term referring to Asians who do not appear to be South Asian, therefore, East and Southeast Asians". In my discussions with my contact with the Statistics Department, I was told (and it is clearly stated on the website statistics) the term Asiatics refers to Asians excluding Indians.
- Population increase to be compared with apprehension statistics: the article clearly points out, several times including the first page, that the Asian population in New Zealand has risen markedly. This was not ignored.
- In 2003 *North & South* itself published a totally positive article on Asian immigration. Did Mok complain that this lacked balance and fairness, given that at the time, serious crimes were being committed by Asian immigrants? I believe her objection, on the grounds of lack of balance or fairness, is restricted to my article which pointed out that, contrary to even the 2003 *North & South* article, there has been a downside to Asian immigration – the news has not all been good.
- The use of the term "Asiatic" was not an "anachronistic racial slur" as she alleges, but directly taken from information supplied to me by the NZ Statistics Department.