

MDA regularly reviews content codes and guidelines to ensure that they are in line with community and social values. In the past financial year, citizen-based committees made up of members of the public from all walks of life provided valuable feedback to MDA on content standards and guidelines and suggested improvements to regulatory frameworks.

Films Appeal Committee (FAC)

The FAC received two appeals, namely, for *Boundless* and *To Singapore, With Love*. *Boundless*, a documentary submitted by the Singapore Film Society (SFS) to be screened at a film festival, was initially rated NC16 with an edit to a scene featuring a triad ceremony. SFS withdrew the film from the festival and subsequently appealed against the classification as it planned to screen the film at another event. FAC heard the appeal and decided that the film can be allowed for the screening under a NC16 classification, without the edit for festival screening.

To Singapore, With Love was found to undermine national security and was given a “Not Allowed for All Ratings” (NAR) decision. The FAC upheld MDA’s decision, having found the film to be a one-sided account with minimal attempts to provide a balanced mix of views beyond those provided by the interviewees featured in the film. As real people and events were featured, the FAC felt that viewers who watch it without sufficient knowledge and understanding of the historical context would take the views presented as the truth. Therefore, the FAC concluded that allowing the film to be screened publicly would pose a serious risk to Singapore’s national security by condoning the use of violence and subversion as a means to achieve political ends in Singapore.

Arts Consultative Panel (ACP)

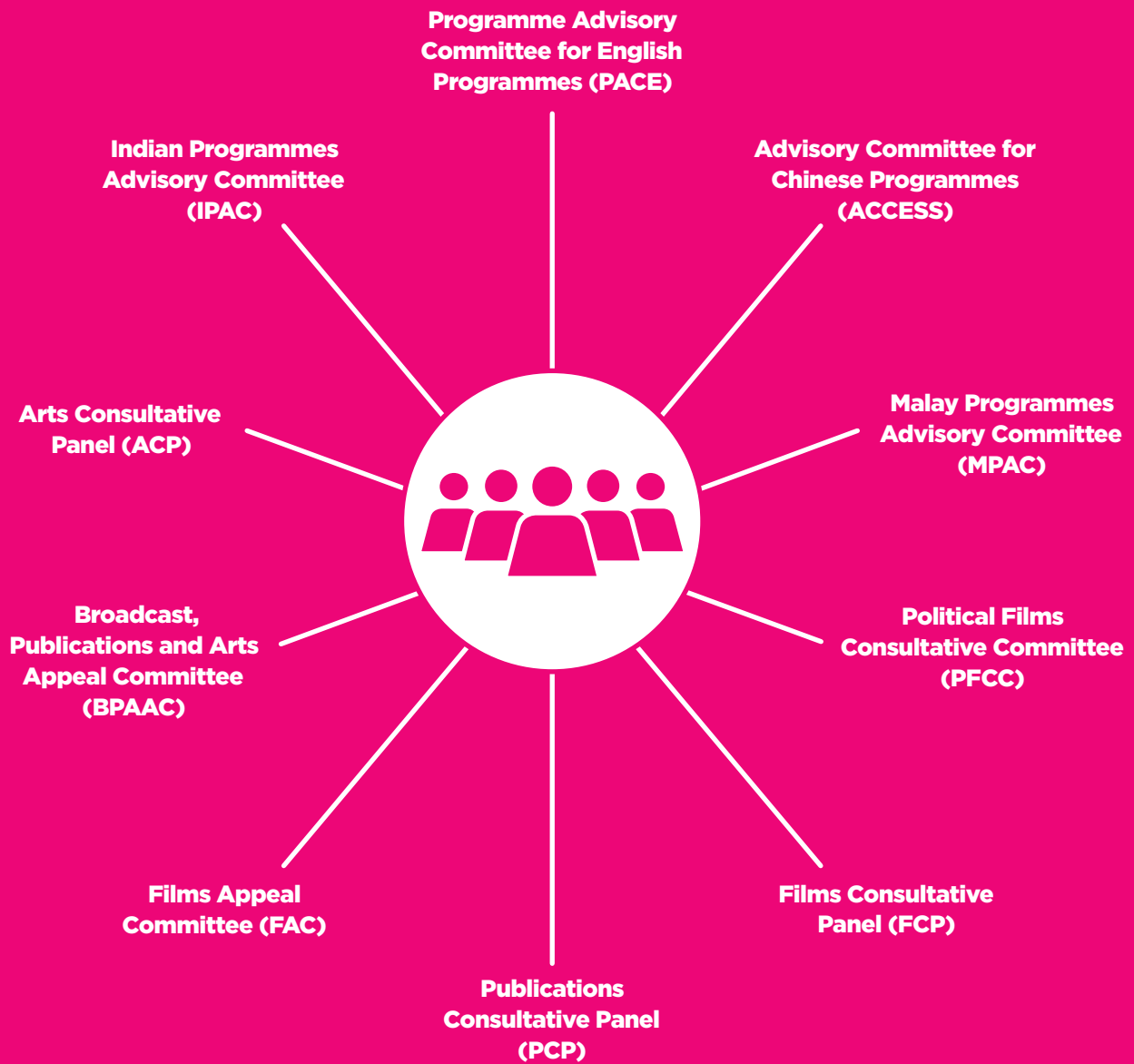
Several meetings were held with the ACP to seek views on eight controversial performances that contained references to race and religion, homosexuality, nudity and sexual content, as well as to discuss the proposed amendments to the PEMA.

Publications Consultative Panel (PCP)

The PCP received 44 referrals in 2014 on controversial publications such as those related to religion, sex and nudity in local and imported publications. The PCP’s role was extended in April 2014 to serve as an additional avenue for the Advertising Standards Authority of Singapore to obtain community views on problematic print advertisements.

WORKING WITH THE PEOPLE

The past year saw MDA continue to work with its 10 citizen-based committees to garner feedback, input and suggestions.



CHAPTER 3.2

ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

TOUCHING
LIVES

We consulted the community and the media industry widely to gain deeper insights, as our commitment to a greater level of engagement grew this year. Singaporeans from all walks of life continued to be actively involved by joining our advisory committees and participating in our dialogue sessions.

For the first time, the four broadcast advisory committees got together to produce a joint report on content standards and local PSB programmes. They gave useful suggestions on how local programmes could be improved, and shared their views on why broadcast programmes should reflect community standards.

To thank the members of the committees and assessment panels for their support, MDA held an appreciation dinner on 8 October 2014. The Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the various committees who had served selflessly and tirelessly for 10 years were presented with tokens of appreciation, and Long Service Awards were presented to 21 members who had dedicated a decade of volunteering with their respective committees.



“The first combined PAC report incorporated the views of all the different advisory committees. I was heartened to note the common and shared beliefs among all the PACs, particularly on local community values, despite PAC members coming from a diverse cross-section of the community comprising different races, religious beliefs, gender, age and occupations. This is important as it shows that though there is diversity, we all share a core Singapore identity. This should be useful to MDA as well as the broadcasters to know.”

Raymond Lye

Chairperson

Programme Advisory Committee for English Programmes (PACE)