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From Corby to the Bali Nine: a case study in broadcast interpreting

From May 2005 onwards, several drug-related cases involving Australians in Bali provided unusual interpreting opportunities for Indonesian language interpreters. While potentially providing high profile interpreting assignments, a mix of variables from problems with live feeds to courtroom delays mean that these are also challenging for interpreters.

There are rich lessons for both practitioners and industry in how to collaborate and ensure the best quality interpreting possible from the points of view of those 'producing' the product and the 'consumer'. When consuming such products, what do audiences look for? Is 'good TV' from the point of view of the 'producer' the same as 'good TV' for the 'consumer'? What preparation can the interpreter undertake in these assignments? How does an interpreter deal with 'being the first' to hear a death sentence being pronounced and what forms of support could be provided post-assignment?

Having delivered the English language interpretation of judges' verdicts from Schapelle Corby to the Bali Nine, the presenter will discuss the opportunities and challenges for both the media industry and practitioners involved in such ventures.