

Statements from Troy Gray

The following has been edited for clarity, length and privacy.

Responses Friday May 30

Thank you for your email. I appreciate that you have a job to do, and I'm truly grateful for the opportunity to respond.

Attached is a public statement released a couple of weeks ago that may help provide further context to your story.

After more than 20 years of groundbreaking work, award-winning projects, and tireless dedication to charitable causes both in Australia and around the world, our journey came to an end in December 2024. It's deeply disheartening that allegations like those raised in your email continue to generate such distress — not just for me personally, but for the many people who have been positively impacted by our work.

As outlined in the attached statement and below responses, it's devastating that the incredible outcomes delivered by our innovative fundraising and filming model are now being overshadowed. Over the past two decades, we've helped raise millions of dollars for hundreds of charities, and touched the lives of thousands of people. That should count for something.

The recent wave of sensational and, at times, misleading reporting has caused damage that is difficult to quantify. The resulting barrage of unsubstantiated abuse has been overwhelming. I exhausted my children's trust fund and personal finances to keep Charity TV Global alive post-COVID. I've lost more than my business — I've lost my dignity, my self-worth, and my ability to earn a living. The cost has been extraordinary. And it's been incredibly unfair.

I have given everything in the service of others — often working unpaid to create real and lasting change. Charity TV Global was my life's work. After COVID decimated our model, I kept things afloat with every dollar I had — and then with money borrowed from family and friends.

And now, this is how it ends — not with compassion, but with condemnation.

I've been open and transparent about our situation from day one. Since December 2024, I've publicly shared regular updates on our financial challenges and liquidation process — always with the hope that understanding might be given the same weight as judgment.

What's most painful is the lack of balance in the coverage. No charity has ever paid a cent toward production — we carried that entire cost ourselves. Adventure All Stars became the biggest contributor to charity of any TV show in Australia. **The foundation's largest creditor is me, personally — and my production company, which hasn't been paid in over a year.**

Yet none of that seems to matter.

It feels as though the narrative was written long before my voice was heard. The headlines, the framing — all seem to ignore the greater truth. And yes, it's distressing. I only wish the media attention had been this focused when we were winning awards and transforming lives.

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In addition, here's answers to your questions

The money raised through their efforts was never passed on. Some now estimate the missing funds could total several hundred thousand dollars. What is your response to this?

Our initial hope was to restructure and preserve our Foundation and Company, but unforeseen external challenges – particularly the unexpected impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, rising costs, and declining philanthropic support – have made it impossible for us to continue operating sustainably. It is no secret that the COVID years were unkind to our travelling/filming/fundraising projects, and post-Covid has been equally as difficult with the loss of our airline and accommodation partnership deals and drastic increases in insurances. Since the inception of our groundbreaking platform, our net monetary returns to aligned charities have remained consistent. However, our costs have escalated significantly, and without brand support, our social enterprise can no longer sustain operations or meet our increasing debts.

Some charities suggest you have threatened their ability to perform core function work due to withholding of funds. What is your response to that? (This includes domestic violence organisations, animal welfare, etc.).

This accusation is deeply unfair, and I categorically reject it. It's incredibly distressing to see such a serious claim made without context or truth.

Earlier this month the Broken Crayons still Colour Foundation obtained a default judgment against Charity TV Global for the sum of \$61,429.13. Do you agree with the court's decision? Do you intend to challenge it?

Over the past three years, we have endured aggressive and vitriolic attacks from the founder of Broken Crayons still Colour Foundation, who continues to claim monies beyond the initial contractual agreements. Yet more vile commentary and threats resonated from this person over the past week, causing further reputational damage. We have consistently fulfilled all obligations and will continue to defend our reputation against false claims and malicious interference. Our entire team has been targeted unfairly, and such bullying and threatening behavior cannot be tolerated. We wish to clarify that all assertions from the opposing party are baseless, and we will take appropriate action to protect our integrity.

Regarding the broadcast of Adventure All Stars, when did your financial relationship with Channel 7 commence, and conclude? Why did it conclude? Are 7 aware of the allegations being made against you?

We have never had a financial relationship with Channel 7, nor have we ever received payment from them. Our programs were occasionally broadcast on their secondary digital channels through affiliations with international networks that carried our content. There was no formal agreement in place – no contracts were ever signed, and no structured partnership existed. Our approach was always to seek the most suitable platform for airing our content based on scheduling availability and timelines. At times this included Channel 7's minor channels, while on many other occasions our programs were broadcast through alternative platforms.

The sources we have spoken to also mentioned concerns around governance and cost estimates related to programming. Regarding governance, in a video you produced and circulated between charities last year (entitled Video update - Charity TV Global, uploaded on 5 Jul 2024 at 14:50, hereafter “Video update”), you claimed that you intended to make every charity whole. Has that taken place? Why not?

The video in question was created with the sole purpose of reassuring our newest charity partners that we were doing everything humanly possible to secure external funding – to try and recover what the post-COVID period had taken from us. At that time, our heartfelt hope was to restructure and preserve both the Foundation and the Company. But despite our best efforts, a series of unforeseen challenges made that impossible.

The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic were devastating — not just to us, but to countless organisations like ours. The years that followed brought surging costs, a sharp decline in philanthropic support, and the collapse of vital airline and accommodation partnerships that were once the backbone of our travel-based model. Insurance premiums skyrocketed. Opportunities vanished. And the financial ground beneath us continued to erode.

It's no secret that COVID was unkind to organisations whose missions depended on travel, filming, and large-scale fundraising. We weathered those storms as long as we could. And throughout it all, our commitment to the charities we served never wavered. From the very beginning of our groundbreaking platform, we've delivered consistent net monetary returns to aligned causes. But over time, the cost of delivering that impact became unsustainable.

Without the support of brands or partners to offset those rising expenses, our social enterprise — no matter how passionate or determined — simply could not survive. We gave it everything. And saying goodbye to something built with such purpose, and for such good, has been nothing short of heartbreaking.

In that same Video update, you claim that a former employee of Charity TV Global stole funds from the company, and that you intended to make an insurance claim. Several people at a different meeting, where you took questions, say that in response to a question about whether the matter was reported to police, you said you did not intend to report it. Was the matter ever reported to police? Why not? Is this consistent with your governance obligations?

Yes, we have taken legal action. As soon as we became aware of the situation, we acted promptly and engaged legal representation — a step we took seriously and in line with our governance responsibilities. It has been a long and challenging process, but one we entered into with the intention of protecting the integrity of our work and doing what was right.

Those involved suggested it should have been reported, and were confused as to why it was not. What is your response to this? When the Video update was posted, after the funds were allegedly stolen, was Charity TV Global solvent and capable of paying debts?

As outlined above, the matter was reported appropriately. Any suggestion to the contrary is inaccurate and misrepresents the facts.

On Tuesday, Charity TV Global went into liquidation. According to financial documents we have reviewed, there are several debts including a \$267,789.66 debt to the tax office, added on August 27, 2024. Can you explain why the show went into liquidation? What are next steps for the business side? On August 27 last year, was your business solvent?

After more than two decades of passionate work – filled with groundbreaking initiatives, award-winning projects, and an unwavering commitment to supporting charitable causes across Australia and around the world – our journey came to an end.

We began this chapter with the hope of restructuring and preserving both our Foundation and our Company. We held onto that hope for as long as we could. But ultimately, a series of unforeseen external challenges made it impossible to continue. The sudden and far-reaching impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, combined with rising operational costs and a noticeable decline in philanthropic support, created an environment we could no longer navigate sustainably.

It's no secret that the COVID years were unkind to our model, which relied so heavily on travel, filming, and large-scale fundraising. The years that followed were just as tough. We lost crucial airline and accommodation partnerships, faced steep increases in insurance premiums, and saw our margins shrink as costs soared.

Despite these challenges, our commitment to aligned charities never wavered. Since the inception of our unique platform, we've consistently delivered strong net returns to causes doing vital work. But passion alone isn't enough to keep an organisation alive. Without brand sponsorships or external funding to offset rising expenses, our social enterprise simply could no longer sustain its operations or meet the mounting financial pressure.

This is not the ending we envisioned. It's heartbreaking. But we are proud of everything we built, and even more proud of the lives we touched and the impact we made along the way.

They also make the point that there were some instances where, in emails, you claimed the business was in the process of appointing administrators (email dated Mon 2/12/2024). Was an administrator ever appointed? Was the business solvent when this email was sent?

That is correct — the initial administrator was appointed in December 2024. Subsequently, the courts appointed a new administrator to assist with managing the financial obligations associated with the liquidation process.

They also allege that many of the activities and accommodation on the show were provided by businesses gratis, and that to the extent that they were quoted costs deducted from the outstrip a reasonable assessment of the actual costs. What is your response to this?

That claim is entirely false. While we were occasionally able to secure contra arrangements prior to COVID, the pandemic's severe impact on the tourism sector made it nearly impossible to maintain such partnerships in the post-COVID environment.

We also understand there are now several reports to authorities about the management of these funds, including reports to Queensland Police, NSW Police, the AFP and ATO. They allege fraud. What is your response? Are 7 aware of these reports and possible investigations?

Firstly, I want to be clear that Channel 7 has no business or financial/operational connection with our business – they only aired some of our episodes on their secondary channels. So, I'm sure they wouldn't have any concern about our closure.

Regarding the allegations of fraud, I am truly hurt and deeply offended by such claims. Over the past 20 years, our dedicated team has poured their hearts into creating something meaningful, achieving incredible success and life-changing philanthropic impact. I encourage you to speak with the many charities and cast members who have been positively touched and supported by our social enterprise throughout these two decades. This work has been the result of the passion and hard work of so many wonderful people – all of whom deserve respect, gratitude, and recognition – not baseless allegations that are both unfair and painful to hear.

We understand that in one incident, several cast members were flown to South Australia to film an episode. Due to cash flow issues with the production, one of the cast members was forced to cover expenses like airfares, groceries and fuel. What's your response to this?

Cash flow challenges became an increasing reality for us in the post-COVID era – something we had to navigate. If any cast member ever contributed personally to cover expenses, I truly believe it was done with the best intentions, and those funds were always reimbursed in due course. The word "forced" feels quite strong and is something we respectfully disagree with. That said, I'm more than willing to understand more about this specific situation and the cast member involved. Over the course of more than 60 trips and working with around 600 cast members, please know that we have always managed to cover the costs associated with filming.

Follow up responses Tuesday June 3

The money raised by charities and/or individuals participating in the show, though not technically in their possession, did fund production costs, for years. That is the foundation of the business model. Is your view that the money raised by charities/cast members/participants was not theirs, and they were not entitled to it? What is your response?

As has always been our model, CTVGF remitted all project funds to our charity partners, less the expenses required to deliver each project – these were referred to as the “Net Project Funds.” Unfortunately, in our most recent productions, those expenses rose dramatically. Filming costs escalated far beyond expectations, and significant increases in insurance and travel-related costs placed an enormous strain on an already lean budget.

Despite every effort to manage these challenges, the financial pressure became overwhelming. I personally stepped in, using my own funds to cover shortfalls in an attempt to protect the integrity of the projects and give them every chance of success. Sadly, those personal contributions still weren’t enough to generate net proceeds for distribution on our final projects. I worked tirelessly to secure new sponsors and brand partners to help bridge the gap – but despite my efforts, support didn’t materialise in time, and I was faced with the heartbreaking decision to cease operations.

This has been devastating, not just for me but for my entire team. We’ve poured our hearts and souls into this work for over two decades. The impact we’ve had – helping raise millions of dollars for hundreds of charities and creating a platform that touched the lives of thousands – is something we’re immensely proud of. Our history speaks for itself.

What hurts deeply is knowing that some of the more recent charities we worked with couldn’t benefit in the way those in past years did. That reality weighs heavily on me. It’s painful to see the success and integrity of our unique fundraising and filming model now overshadowed, when the outcomes it produced were so powerful and positive for so long.

I’ve been open and transparent about our situation from day one.

More than a dozen charities have expressed their dismay about emails not being responded to and issues being ignored when brought up. Some allege after the program you failed to speak to them at all, except through generic group emails sent to everyone. What is your response?

Throughout this journey, I’ve done everything I can to keep all our charity partners informed. I’ve hosted multiple online video calls with everyone invited, where I openly answered questions and did my best to provide clarity and reassurance. I’ve also sent regular email updates – and while some were general in nature to ensure consistency, they were always sent with genuine intent to keep everyone in the loop. Beyond that, I posted monthly updates on our social media channels and website, and I shared official correspondence directly from our accountants, legal advisors, and insurers to further support transparency.

I understand that uncertainty can be painful, and I never wanted anyone to feel left in the dark. I’ve done my absolute best to communicate openly, honestly, and often.

If any cast member ever contributed personally to cover expenses, I truly believe it was done with the best intentions, and those funds were always reimbursed in due course. The word “forced” feels quite strong and is something we respectfully disagree with. That said, I’m more than willing to understand more about this specific situation and the cast member involved. Over the course of more than 60 trips and working with around 600 cast members, please know that we have always managed to cover the costs associated with filming.

This cast member says she has still not been paid, and many of the cast members are now paying her back. What is your response to this?

This is truly sad to read, and I want to acknowledge how difficult it must be for anyone who feels left out-of-pocket – no one should ever be in that position. It has always been my belief that where a genuine reimbursement is owed, it should be made right.

I’m absolutely open to learning more about this particular situation and am more than willing to engage in direct conversation to ensure everything is understood and resolved.

Please feel free to pass on my details — I’d welcome the opportunity to listen, understand, and work through this together.

As outlined above, the matter was reported appropriately. Any suggestion to the contrary is inaccurate and misrepresents the facts.

Did you report the matter to police?

Yes

Your use of the word just indicates that it is a charity. Does it have charitable status? It is not registered on the ACNC website.

Typo / insertion (unintentional) of the word “just”. Should read: “This is not a charity – it’s a deeply personal and urgent public crusade to save lives.” I’m deeply involved in a number of campaigns and projects that shine a light on something I care about immensely – the importance of reaching out, leaning on your village, and removing the stigma that still surrounds mental health. No one should feel alone in their struggles. By creating spaces where connection is encouraged and vulnerability is met with compassion, we can help people feel better, sooner – and remind them that it’s okay to not be okay. This work is personal to me, and I’m committed to being part of the change.

Have you paid out relevant proceeds under your contractual agreement? If so can you please provide evidence of that? Does that mean the court was wrong?

I’m assuming you’re referring to the ongoing legal proceedings initiated by Broken Crayons Still Colour Foundation. Over the past three years, we’ve been the subject of repeated and deeply distressing accusations from this organisation – claims that extend well beyond the scope of our original contractual

agreement. Despite this, we've remained committed to fulfilling our obligations with integrity and professionalism.

Unfortunately, recent yet more public commentary from them has been particularly damaging – both personally and professionally – and has only added to the emotional toll this situation has taken on myself and our team. We've done our best to rise above the vitriol, but the reality is that these ongoing attacks have caused real harm.

We continue to stand by our actions and values. The claims being made are simply not based in fact, and we will take the necessary steps through the proper legal channels to protect our people, our reputation, and the truth.

This has been a heartbreaking chapter, especially given the work we've done to create positive impact over two decades. All we ask for is fairness, respect, and the opportunity to have our voice heard without malice or misinformation.

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