

Response from Darren Wick, Director of News and Current Affairs, Nine:

“Schwartz is a twice-convicted drug trafficker who claims his reputation has been damaged by, he alleges, a suggestion that he helped police. Nine denies the allegations and intends to defend the proceedings.”

“Since 2016 (the year prior to the ACA report) Schwartz was widely described by other media as a privileged, wealthy “executive” with Rio Tinto. His own Linked-in profile said “senior analyst”. See for example:

- <https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/private-school-boy-allegedly-busted-smuggling-coke-via-mail/news-story/b618821c74c1e623ac9fb7a53746e6f6>
- <https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/dr-octopus-cocaine-case-drug-ring-traced-back-to-us-by-aussie-cops/news-story/f833198054456d6d70f58dd55e7b1938>
- <https://www.facebook.com/7newssydney/posts/only-weeks-before-he-was-due-to-tie-the-knot-a-wealthy-sydney-mining-executive-h/1414374095253386/>
- <https://au.news.yahoo.com/wedding-off-privileged-sydney-fiance-caught-smuggling-23kg-of-cocaine-33078063.html>
- <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3893998/Former-private-school-boy-Bennet-Schwartz-arrested-trying-smuggle-cocaine-U-S.html>
- <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4192928/Sydney-man-revealed-Dr-Octopus-88-drug-dealer-caught.html>
- <https://www.news.com.au/finance/real-estate/sydney-nsw/bennet-schwartz-sells-armidale-investment/news-story/f7cb68262a585fc93ac242bc2a36c8f5>
- <https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/sydney-man-faces-life-behind-bars-after-bid-to-smuggle-16kg-of-cocaine-in-sausage-maker-went-awry/news-story/55d113f7e3d492ccd6126e819c448dac>

“Schwartz is adamant he is not among them, Nine commends the bravery of those who despite having committed offences, agree to assist police with the difficult and vital job they do to protect our community from crime. Of course Nine does not condone the doing of any unlawful act causing injury to any person, whether in custody or otherwise. Information about prisoners may come to be known to other prisoners through many avenues – that and the issues around welfare of persons in the custody of NSW Corrections are not matters about which Nine can comment.

“Davis’s description is false and offensive: Nine reported the conviction of Schwartz and others on charges of commercial drug importation, which are serious and important matters of public interest about which the community has a right to be informed.”