

Responses from Chris Chapman, former Chair and CEO of ACMA (2006-2016):

1. How would you describe the content being broadcast on the Kyle and Jackie O show during school drop off time?

Suffice it to say it beggars belief that any responsible broadcaster could sanction this, that any programme producer would allow it to make it into a programme and any presenter would be comfortable participating in it and playing it out.

2. What would you say about ARN/KISSFM and their decision to put this to air?

This style of broadcasting and the material offered up as 'acceptable' for breakfast is, along with many many other examples, serially contributing to the watering down of decency thresholds in society. I cannot comprehend how a broadcaster, utilising treasured spectrum licenced from government, can consider this material as acceptable within the broadcasting code.

3. What should ACMA do?

Conduct an investigation, no doubt in response to a listener complaint or, if it wished to be proactive, of its own volition.

4. What should ARN do?

[A matter for them]

5. What should the board do?

No doubt the Board will seek an immediate confirmation from the CEO that the broadcast complied with relevant clause(s) of the Radio Broadcasting Code of Practice and, if in place, any internal guidance, principles and production constraints....and if that is not forthcoming, then accountability is mandatory with substantive consequences to flow. If it is forthcoming, then that raises a while different world of pain for the broadcaster.

6. What is the point of having a regulator – and a decency standard – if this sort of content it allowed to continue?

Fair question. Throughout my 10 year term as Chairman of the ACMA, I campaigned with the government of the day for 'fit for purpose' powers (ie.

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more meaningful, accessible and/or timely powers to provide teeth; to give broadcasters food for thought before broadcasting material not in keeping with community expectations). More generally, the ACMA was very active in highlighting the 'broken concepts' embedded in the various leading pieces of legislation it was responsible for... only marginal incremental additional powers were provided. Governments have always remained reluctant to let the broadcasting regulator off the leash, although it strikes me that the current Minister has an appetite to do so and understands that the whole communications framework needs to be dragged into the digital age and that the historic wack-a-mole approach cannot deal with the scale of speed and impact that the digital world enables/