

Women's Electoral Lobby
8-10 Victoria St
Newtown NSW 2042

24 January 2016

Mr Peter Bush
Chairman
Southern Cross Austereo
Board of Directors and Leadership Team
Level 15, 50 Goulburn Street
World Square
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Mr Bush,

RE: LATHAMLAND

It is of great concern to the Women's Electoral Lobby that Southern Cross Austereo would give Mr Latham a platform on Triple M Sydney where he can normalise and rationalise domestic violence as a "coping mechanism".

Far too many Australians excuse or minimise men's violence against women or believe a woman is at fault for the abuse she experiences. One in five Australians believe such violence can be excused if it results from people "temporarily losing control" or if they "truly regret" what they have done.¹ Mr Latham reinforces these harmful attitudes by justifying domestic violence as a "coping mechanism". This is especially concerning given Triple M Sydney reaches more 25-54 year old males than any other radio station.² As a major broadcaster, Triple M Sydney is in a position to positively change men's attitudes and practices to promote respectful relationships.

¹ *National Community Attitudes Survey 2013*, VicHealth, 2014, available at <<http://www.southerncrossaustereo.com.au/media/2013/03/05/triple-m-number-one-station-for-sydney-men/>> (accessed 21 January 2016)

² "Triple M Number One Station for Sydney Men", Southern Cross Austereo, 5 March 2013, available at <<http://www.southerncrossaustereo.com.au/media/2013/03/05/triple-m-number-one-station-for-sydney-men/>> (accessed 24 January 2016)

Instead, Triple M Sydney aired a pre-recorded segment including the following statement:

It's that loss of self-esteem where I think they use the domestic violence as a coping mechanism to get over all the other crap they've got in their lives.

This is both disappointing and unacceptable.

There are many organisations and individuals working to create an Australia free of violence against women and their children, where women are not only safe but respected, valued and treated as equals in private and public life. Rosie Batty is one such individual. The work she has done with Our Watch, Never Alone, Victoria's Royal Commission into Family Violence, and as Australian of the Year has been deeply appreciated by advocates for, and survivors of, domestic violence and has positively influenced political responses to the scourge of domestic violence. To suggest Ms Batty is "causing more harm than good" by criticising men is inaccurate.

The airing of this segment showed a reckless disregard for the welfare of domestic violence survivors across Australia.

The Women's Electoral Lobby requests Triple M issue a formal apology to Ms Batty and all women who are survivors of domestic violence for his factually incorrect comments.

The Women's Electoral Lobby further request Triple M donate the revenue raised through Mr Latham's podcast to the National Sexual Assault, Family & Domestic Violence Counselling Line.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Melanie Fernandez
Chair
Women's Electoral Lobby Australia