

Peter Aranyi

29/4/15

To the producers of Seven Sharp  
Cc: Kevin Kenrick, TVNZ CEO

**Breach of broadcasting standards: Mike Hosking, Seven Sharp 23 April 2015**

I am appalled at what TVNZ broadcast last Thursday, 23 April on Seven Sharp - and subsequently published to the TVNZ website under the headline "Mike's View: Waitress' 'selfishness' in outing Key makes cafe owners the big losers". (Transcript below.)

I wish to make a formal complaint.

In my view, Mike Hosking unfairly attacked and inaccurately abused an identifiable person - 26 year old waitress Amanda Bailey. By ~~at~~ the time of broadcast it was clear Ms Bailey had been confirmed ~~was~~ a victim of serial harassment (unwanted touching) at her workplace. It had also been published and Hosking knew - or ought to have known - that Ms Bailey had unsuccessfully complained about the incidents to her manager.

Inaccurately and without justification, Hosking characterised Ms Bailey as politically-motivated and described her airing of her complaint as a sign of "selfishness" which only hurt the cafe owners - whom he described as "the big losers" and "the victims" and to whom he gave a gushing promotional recommendation: "good hardworking people who in their own way have revolutionised the food scene with an outstanding series of outlets throughout Auckland". He obscured the published fact that Ms Bailey had complained about the harassment to her employer, casting her as a witting or unwitting pawn of a political smear campaign.

It is intolerable that a public broadcaster such as TVNZ should provide a platform for Hosking's nasty, out-of-touch bullying.

Instead of the free infomercial for his 'acquaintances' the owners of the Hip Group, Hosking should have devoted some time to balance - to fairly and accurately address the published facts of this issue - including the fact that Ms Bailey had complained to her manager.

I'm a father of teenagers. My daughter, like many, has worked in hospitality roles and contract catering, interacting with patrons, some of

whom are the worse for wear. I am very clear that Hosking's sneering, poisonous and destructive message - effectively: maligning a young woman who objected to be being touched without her consent and using his 'pulpit' at TVNZ to publicly decry her speaking up in frustration as "selfishness" which "caused needless upset and attention to a couple who have done nothing but go about their business" should never have been given space on our airwaves.

To rectify this, I ask that you broadcast a formal apology and retraction of Hosking's comments, and remove that offending video clip from the TVNZ website <http://tvnz.co.nz/seven-sharp/mike-s-view-waitress-selfishness-in-outing-key-makes-cafe-owners-big-losers-video-6299059>

It seems to me the 'Mike's View' segment was in breach of the broadcasting standards, specifically:

STANDARD 4 - Controversial Issues/Viewpoints - When discussing controversial issues of public importance in news, current affairs or factual programmes, broadcasters should make reasonable efforts, or give reasonable opportunities, to present significant points of view either in the same programme or in other programmes within the period of current interest.

STANDARD 5 - Accuracy - Broadcasters should make reasonable efforts to ensure that news, current affairs and factual programming:

- is accurate in relation to all material points of fact and/or
- does not mislead.

STANDARD 6 - Fairness - Broadcasters should deal fairly with any person or organisation taking part or referred to.

Hosking's 'view' was about <sup>a</sup> controversial matter, he was not accurate, and he dealt very unfairly with the subject of his attack: Amanda Bailey.

Please advise me of the steps you intend to take to rectify this matter. In the absence of an adequate response, it is my intention to lodge a detailed formal complaint with the Broadcasting Standards Authority.

Thank you



Peter Aranyi  
Auckland



## UP NOW

▶ Mike's view: Waitress' 'selfishness' in outing Key makes cafe owners the big losers (1:04)

Added: 7:41PM Thursday April 23, 2015

Source: Seven Sharp

"They are the victims in an agenda driven circus," Mike says.

 Tweet 150

## UP NEXT

Transcript - "Mike's View: Waitress' 'selfishness' in outing Key makes cafe owners the big losers." - Seven Sharp, 23 April 2015

Hosking: You know who the big losers out in this ponytail shambles are? The cafe owners are.

They are the victims in an agenda-driven circus which has unfolded as these things always do when you involve the angry undergrounders on social media.

To quote the waitress concerned today, "I felt New Zealand should know." What a puffed-up, self-involved pile of political bollocks.

She had a problem at work? The owners were the people to consult, not a blogger.

The owners - one of whom I have run into a couple of times given we frequent a number of their cafes - good hard-working people who in their own way have revolutionised the food scene with an outstanding series of outlets throughout Auckland. They deserve none of this.

Yes, what Key did was bizarre, but it never warranted this. This is what it is because, as always, there is more at play than the singular incident.

Even if the waitress concerned wandered into this naively, she wandered into a snakes pit frequented by those driven by political self-interest and nothing more.

And if it wasn't naive - which makes it worse - and she was looking to hang the prime minister out to dry, her selfishness caused needless upset and attention to a couple who have done nothing but go about their business. •