

Subject: Inquiry into broadcasting code

Monday May 5th 2008

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I am writing in regards to the upcoming senate inquiry into the effectiveness of the broadcasting codes of practice, in particular the concern over the language of Gordon Ramsey in his show. I would like to state my disbelief that this show would cause an inquiry when we consider some of the other shows put forward for public entertainment in this country. I do agree that Mr Ramsey is extremely attracted to the use of the F word and as a mother of 4 girls I do not allow them to speak in such a way. However Mr Ramsey does not degrade any one, is not sexist or violent and does not undermine the moral development of anyone.

During many of his shows he identifies serious problems with the management of various restaurants and helps people to become empowered and able to reach their full potential. He did in one show identify a man with a serious drinking problem and even brought in a recovering alcoholic to discuss this serious issue and helped the family realise that this man needed help. As a woman who has had to deal with the effects of alcoholism on my husband and what his behaviour did to my children I have to say that it is highly refreshing to see a strong man identifying the great difficulty this disease has on people.

Our TV is peppered with shows depicting a great number of inappropriate behaviour and many at a far earlier hour than Ramsey's show. I am disgusted that this show and Ramsey's use of the F word is even being considered. While watching TV with my young children recently and ad came on openly showing two elderly people having naked sex in the yard. My children and I were horrified by this. The Simpson show is banned in my house because of violent behaviour to the children and degrading behaviour and it is on a 6pm just about every night.

In this modern world I am trying very hard to raise 4 Girls to have high morals and to avoid some of the dangers in this world. If my girls followed the example of Gordon Ramsey and swore like troupers but were hard working, devoted to their families, against drugs and alcohol and saw the best or the potential in people I would be extremely proud.

In short I would ask the Committee to consider the overall message and attitude of this show and consider that Mr Ramsey has some important things to show us, even how to get the "Bullocks" to stand up for ourselves and go after what we want. How many shows on Australian TV can really have a positive effect on people? The amount of "language" in a show should be the least of your concerns. What about unprotected, promiscuice sex, binge drinking, drug use, violence or sexism? What about the content of the children's shows on Rollercoaster? Many of these shows are disgusting and totally unsuitable to the young children they are directed at. Our world is full of very unsuitable role models for our children, However I do not believe that Gordon Ramsey is one of them.

Yes the code of practice for broadcasting could be looked at but I truly believe bad language should be way down on your list of concerns. Nearly every morning we wake to several ads for making your erection last longer. Now, no swear words, but I have to explain to a 7 yr old on our way to school what an erection is and why a woman wants her husband to last

longer. Deal with Sex, Drugs, Alcohol and violent behaviour before you even think to look at language. It really is of little consequence in the broader picture of attitudes depicted in our society. It is easy to count the F words but how many times in a show is there sexual innuendo or a glib attitude towards alcohol and really which has the greater effect on our society. This show is not rated for children and is clearly marked as containing language unsuitable for minors. Many other shows in this time slot can open with graphic accident or even sex scenes with no notice and I must ensure my young one is out of the room well before it starts eg. House.

To sum up I am hoping that this committee will consider the state of our society and consider the impact that certain shows have on public attitudes. Swearing is a minor consideration in the overall picture of our Nation and the problems it is dealing with but of course it is the easiest to eliminate at the expence of some valuable qualities our society could pick up. Mr Ramsey is an extremely fair minded, hard working man who is showing how businesses can run so much better and that Management of staff, finding the right market for your business and hard work is the way to success. Please consider how many other shows give you a positive way of improving your life and business opportunity.

Yours Sincerely
Lisa Penridge