



2MCR Macarthur Community Radio Association Incorporated

Talk Back Policy

Introduction

There are no separate rules for talk back radio. A caller is treated like a studio guest. The host (panel operator) is legally responsible for the guests/callers.

Presenters wishing to conduct talk-back radio segments, are required to go through a specific Talkback training session. If a presenter has not done the 2MCR sanctioned training the presenter cannot do talk-back.

Program presenters must read up on the *ACMA Code of Practice for Community Broadcasters* and the *CBAA Media Law*, and fully understand their obligations. Both documents are available on the 2MCR 100.3FM website, if in doubt please consult the management committee.

When you did your Talkback training you were advised to read up on the above guidelines and laws, and you declared that you are familiar with them.

Be conscious of the content of the interview taking place and please ensure you follow points below strictly.

Guidelines

Do not:

- incite hatred, violence or sedition,
- promote illicit drugs,
- promote excessive use of legal drugs,
- use obscene language,
- promote commercial businesses or interests,
- defame individuals, organizations, groups, businesses, politicians, religions, cultures, races, etc.

Note: Not mentioning a name does not necessarily protect you from prosecution. If only one listener recognizes who was talked about, and then potentially thinks worse of that person, defamation has occurred.

- 2MCR 100.3FM's recommendation is, if in doubt, leave it out!
- Do not admit to or apologise for defamation. This will only make matters worse!
- Be extra careful when talking about locals, or local businesses.

Note: Usually, it is not large corporations or federal politicians who take a radio station to court. Most defamation claims come from members of the community.

- Any costs arising from a defamation claim can be deferred by the station to the host of the offending show.

2MCR Talk-back suggestions

1. Consider time zones when you make an appointment with somebody to ring in.
2. Keep interviews short. You may overstretch the attention span of your listeners as telephone interviews are harder to concentrate on (due to poor Talk Back content and quality)
3. Be relevant, stick to the point, don't waffle
4. Research your subject note down relevant questions.