

Hi Matthew

Here is the response to your query from an *Australian Story* spokesperson:

*Australian Story* maintains that the episode on Ray Hadley fulfilled the brief of putting new material into the arena about a significant and controversial public figure. Ray Hadley's anger issues were the prism through which the program was tackled and indeed were mentioned multiple times from the introduction onwards. Ray Hadley and those around him were candid about his behaviour and his personal character flaws. We included more than one example of actual audio tape of Ray Hadley losing his temper. We included acknowledgements from Ray Hadley himself and his employers and his family re his 'scary' disposition and intolerant nature. His wife also spoke candidly about Ray Hadley losing his temper at home and the personal consequences for their relationship.

We dispute Mike Carlton's claim that he was unethically and deceptively edited and 'recruited into his fan club'. We sought Mike Carlton out as a critic and in the program all his key criticisms of Ray Hadley were covered - within the bounds of normal editorial practices re accuracy, fairness, civility and balance.

Mike Carlton says the program should have sought out more critics. The program did detail specific instances of bullying behaviour along with Ray Hadley's own concessions about being a 'dinosaur' and needing to reform his workplace conduct. In the course of research we spoke at length to several alleged victims, all of whom declined to appear. (The only exception was an individual, previously on the record in relation to an alleged incident some 15 years ago.)

*Australian Story* seeks to shed light on complex individuals. The program's style and approach has always been confessional not adversarial. Its remit has never been 'hang em high' journalism. There are obviously many other outlets for that approach. We believe, within the broader spectrum, that there is value in a format that allows individuals and those closest to them to 'reveal themselves'...

Any further queries, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Best

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