

Complaint: OMSA15/004
Complainant: C. Murupaenga-Ikenn
Media: Radio Hauraki
Content: Jeremy Wells 'Like Mike' Hosking Rant - Prince Harry & The Locals
Updated 15 May 2015

Date of Ruling: 4 June 2015
Outcome: No Grounds to Proceed

Complainant, C. Murupaenga-Ikenn, said, in part: "...Apparently, the slot is meant to be a parody of Mike Hosking. However, that doesn't justify its appalling bad taste. The segment made a number of comments which I find highly offensive and incite ignorance and racial hatred, as they openly discriminate against and denigrate Māori...

Not only do we (the truly "right thinking" New Zealanders) expect more (in this day and Age of a supposedly more mature Nation) from those working in the public arena to comply standards of basic human decency and respect, but it is their legal obligation as Broadcasters to do so..."

The relevant provision appeared to be Standard 5 Responsible Content.

Chairman's Ruling: The Chairman noted the item complained about was posted 15 May 2015 on the Hauraki Radio station website and the complaint was received on 1 June 2015.

Under the OMSA Constitution, Section 6(a) of the Complaints Procedures requires a complaint to be lodged within 14 days of the content first being posted on the publisher's website.

The Chairman then took into account the complaint had also been submitted to the Publisher, Radio Hauraki directly and received confirmation from the Publisher the complaint was being considered by them as part of the Broadcasting Standards Authority process.

The Chairman acknowledged the concerns of the Complainant, however, the complaint was out of time and was not able to proceed under the Online Media Standards Complaints Committee process.

Chairman's Ruling: No Grounds to Proceed

Content: The 'Like Mike' segment broadcast on Radio Hauraki was posted to their website and was a satire by Jeremy Wells of Mike Hosking. The broadcast referred to the visit of Prince Harry to New Zealand, and impersonating Mike Hosking, Jeremy Wells said, in part:

"I can't condone all this Māori carry on ...Why do New Zealanders insist on pushing our cultural heritage onto visiting dignitaries? ...I prefer Māoris to keep to themselves,

contained within marae, rural rugby clubs or onstage cultural performances in Rotorua hotels coinciding with a hangi buffet. Māori are loose units: they're often tato'o'd, their women smoke too much, and are free and easy with their affections ...as right thinking New Zealanders, we should be asking 'is this the image we want to be conveying to the world?'"