

Email from ABC reporter Ellen Coulter to Fiona Girkin

From: Ellen Coulter <Coulter.Ellen@abc.net.au>

Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2025 4:31:06 pm

To: FM.Girkin@utas.edu.au

Subject: ABC News story - Bettina Arndt interview

Good afternoon Dr Girkin,

I'm a journalist with the ABC News in Hobart.

I'm reaching out because I'm working on a story regarding your interview with Bettina Arndt: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ph3eHtVO8nk>

Tasmania Police has informed me you will not be involved in police training courses until a further assessment of the matter has been completed. They have told me the opinions you stated are not in line with the principles Tasmania Police supports in dealing with family violence.

Could you please let me know:

-Have you been stood aside from your teaching courses/units for police recruits and police officers?

-Do you stand by your comments in the interview with Ms Arndt?

-Do you stand by your comments that police have told you that women are just as likely to be perpetrators of domestic violence as men?

-Do you have any research or data for that anecdotal evidence?

-Engender Equality says your comments that police are seeing just as many women as men as domestic violence perpetrators is a "misrepresentation of what we know from evidence, from data and research" and detracts from the severity of the reality, and undermines services who work in the space. They also say the sharing of perspectives that are alternative to the evidence contribute to victims not being believed. What is your response to this?

-In the interview, Ms Arndt says you originally approached her, and that you thanked her for being willing to protect men from women who seek to destroy their lives. You nod and say “yeah”. Did you initially approach Ms Arndt, and did you thank her?

Please provide a response by 1600 tomorrow, Thursday 22nd May, which is my deadline.

Please feel free to call me to discuss any of this.

Thanks,



Ellen Coulter
Journalist
7.30 and ABC
News
