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The Australian Communications and Media Authority
By email: info@acma.gov.au.

13 March 2018

RE: Complaint regarding Sunrise's coverage of Stolen Generations

Dear ACMA,

I write to make a formal complaint about Sunrise's coverage of 'Proposal For White Families To Take In Abused Aboriginal Kids' aired on 13 March 2018.

The coverage was reporting on the Federal Assistant Children's Minister David Gillespie's call for more Aboriginal children to be adopted by non-Aboriginal families. Prue MacSween and Ben Davis appeared on a panel to discuss this and the Stolen Generation.

Ms MacSween used the segment on Sunrise to support and argue for the continuation of a Stolen Generation:

"Please don't worry about the people who will decry and hand wring and say this will be another stolen generation., Just like the first stolen generation where a lot of children that were taken because it was for their wellbeing, we need to do it again. "

This is a highly offensive, racist and divisive statement. Sunrise's program presented Samantha Armytage made no attempt condemn or rebuke it. No Aboriginal voice was referred to or given prominence in this unbalanced and one-sided "debate."

The Stolen Generations came about by a government policy that was directed at removing Aboriginal children from their families and their country and placing them with non-Aboriginal families allegedly for their 'protection.' There is an overwhelming acceptance within Australia that the Stolen Generations policy was wrong in principle, appallingly damaging to First Nations peoples and at its core racist.

No television station or news program should condone this type of unbiased racist commentary towards First Nations people.

Regards,

David Shoebridge
Greens NSW MP