



## POLICY

Drafted by	Jude Briscoe	Approved by Board on	April 2014, 2018
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## Use of Offensive Language On Air

### Purpose

To establish the minimal acceptable broadcasting language for ValleyFM (VFM) presenters.

### Policy

**Offensive words of any ilk must not be broadcast after 0500 hours (5am) or before 2100 hours (9pm) UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. This applies to ALL PRESENTERS.**

**All VFM Presenters are totally banned from swearing on air or using offensive language as a presentation technique i.e. to get a point across.**

Failure to adhere to this requirement will result in instant removal from broadcasting and may result in charges being laid for breach of the Australian Broadcasting Act 1992.

Songs and comments that:

- Describe acts of violence
- Describe sexual acts or no-consensual relations
- Include excessive or grossly offensive language, and/or
- Describe and/or encourage the use of illegal drugs

**MUST NEVER GO TO AIR.**

After 2100 hours and before 0500 hours songs may contain swear words (but not in excess) however presenters themselves must never swear. Presenters may also provide a warning to listeners. The following rules must be followed for these times:

- No detailed acts of violence
- Violence must not be presented as desirable
- No explicit depiction of sex or sexual acts
- Offensive language may only be played in a song if appropriate in describing the context of that song (and within the song only, not by the presenter), and

- Nothing which favourably depicts the use of illegal drugs.

Presenters are advised to always know what music they intend to play before playing it on air. If in any doubt it is advisable to not play it at all.

### **Legislation Framework**

Commonwealth Australian Broadcasting Act 1992 @ <http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/C2013C00630>

### **References**

Community Broadcasting Association of Australia @ <http://cbaa.org.au/>  
Australian Communication and Media Authority @ <http://www.acma.gov.au/>