

From: Karen Bunting [REDACTED]
Sent: Mon, 22 Mar 2021 13:14:14 +1100 (AEDT)
To: Chris Bendall
 [REDACTED]
 Angus Llewellyn [REDACTED]
Subject: Contributor Aftercare - Canberra Story

Hi all

Great to chat earlier and get across this together

Below is a summary of our approach so far regarding psych support for Brittany & David since we started producing the story.

Simon has called today and Brittany is nervous about 4C's tonight, March 22nd

They have spoken about establishing a mental health plan for her in QLD.

Simon has a counsellor in Brisbane to recommend and he would also like to put her in touch with Steve Carey for additional crisis management help.

I'm interested in your thoughts here. Steve is checking whether there is a conflict of interest his end and has a contact in Brisbane to recommend if the circumstances are not appropriate.

<https://newsflashmedia.com.au/crisis-communication/>

PRE TX

- When we first spoke to Brittany Higgins she hadn't had any counselling or seen any health professional to deal with her trauma.
- Once Angus had established this, she followed his advice & went to her GP.
- A Mental Health Plan was implemented. This allowed her access to Medicare Psychology counselling sessions.
- She was happy with her new psychologist and didn't take us up any offer by me to help facilitate any more help.
- Brittany had support from the Canberra Rape Crisis Centre at her AFP Belconnen meeting and with Brittany's help, Angus made contact with this counsellor for corroboration of our story.
- Following Brittany's contact with the counsellor at the Canberra Rape Crisis Centre, Brittany then reached out to this counsellor.
- She had maintained contact and continue to seek advice with this counsellor prior to Broadcast.
- At the time the story went to air, we were of the understanding Brittany was seeing two counsellors and that she had a strong network of friends and family on speed dial for support.

POST TX – FEB 15th ongoing

- At that time she was living with her father in QLD having moved of the ACT before the story aired
- She had changed her phone number
- She no longer used social media
- Angus in constant contact the days following the interview airing checking in
- The Project engaged Simon Kinsella to provide both Brittany & David with post broadcast counselling support to work in parallel with her rape crisis counselling
- Feb 20th - Simon spoke with Brittany . She was fairly composed and he encouraged her to limit the hours she gives to the issue each day. They discussed carefully planning public response (with a focus on her reform) We were advised to limiting our contact with her to weekday mornings, to help her keep her afternoons free.
- Simon invited Brittany and David to contact him at any point for follow up and as we agreed, it was left with them to arrange. They didn't follow up
- We checked in again on Feb 28th and they hadn't made an another appt.
- On March 3rd, Karen requested that Simon get in touch to see how they were going, due to predicted activity around Canberra Press Conference that day. He sent a text and it wasn't responded to.
- March 22nd Simon Kinsella checked in with Brittany to establish a longer term support plan (*which I will add following thoughts on Steve Carey*)

Let me know how you feel about this summary

Cheers

KB

Karen Bunting

Head of Production



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7PM Company Pty Ltd

Level 4, Como Building,

620 Chapel Street (Cnr Toorak Rd)

South Yarra, Victoria, 3141

E: [REDACTED]