Making a complaint to the Press Council about Funnell.

You make your complaint on the Press Council’s complaints form at <https://www.presscouncil.org.au/complaints-form/>

 It is a simple online form, which is not difficult to complete. You need to do one form for each publication you are complaining about. Please make sure you spell out both the author and publisher of the articles as breaching the Press Council principles.

[Here](https://www.bettinaarndt.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/funnell-articles-for-blog-final.docx) is a list of articles I would encourage you to lodge a complaint about. Please do as many as you can but I would particularly like many complaints regarding the news.com.au articles because they seem very keen on publishing anything Funnell chooses to use to attack me.

PLEASE NOTE: If the article you are complaining about includes the highly-edited video of my interview with Bester then you could also include this line:

“This article’s use of a selectively-edited video of Arndt’s interview with Bester is also an inaccurate and prejudicial depiction of the interview, and exacerbates the violations listed.”

At Section 2 you will need to fill in the details about the article and the specific publication you are complaining about. For example:

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| **2. The following details must be provided about the article or other published material which is the subject of your complaint:** |
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| **What is the name of the Newspaper, Magazine or Website where the material was printed**  \* |
| www.news.com.au |
| **Please select the date/s on which the material was published**  \* |
| August 12, 2019 |
| **Please provide the Headline, URL or any other identification which can help us locate the material**  \* |
| <https://www.news.com.au/national/courts-law/i-lost-everything-predator-teachers-disturbing-interview/news-story/c2ae11e76793290fb4f6b4fbb422bc62> |
|  |

Then this might help you with Sections 5 and 7 of that form:

Section 5: **Please state in no more than 400 words the reasons for your complaint and, where possible, state which of the Council’s** [**Standards of Practice**](https://www.presscouncil.org.au/statements-of-principles/) **you think have been breached.**

**(You only have 400 words or 2600 characters – this is just under 400 words and 2600 characters.)**

In breach of Principle 8, the publisher and author of this article fail to disclose the author’s conflict of interest in her presentation of material damaging to Bettina Arndt’s professional reputation – namely that Arndt’s campus speaking tour poses a significant risk to the efforts of Nina Funnell’s organisation, End Rape on Campus, to exaggerate the risks to young women at our universities.

It is in Funnell’s interest to discredit Arndt to ensure the success of her campus rape scare campaign. The article named here is one of nine similar pieces published by Funnell in the last two years, all of which include attacks on Arndt but fail to acknowledge her conflict of interest. This failure by the author and the publisher of this article is a clear breach of standards of practice.

I also contend Funnell has breached Principle 3 by failing to achieve “fairness and balance” because she omitted “key facts” about Bettina Arndt. In attempting to discredit Arndt, who recently interviewed convicted sex offender Nico Bester, a central figure in the #LetHerSpeak campaign orchestrated by Funnell, Ms Funnell omitted that, as part of that interview, Arndt condemned Bester’s criminal actions, discussed the seriousness of his crime and agreed with Bester that his prison sentence was absolutely appropriate.

Funnell is also reckless with respect to the requirement to avoid harm. This misleading material, which omits key facts, is prejudicial to Arndt and appears designed to portray Arndt as a supporter of criminal activity, which the omitted material proves she is not. This is an unarguable breach of Principle 6, which requires Funnell to “avoid causing or contributing materially to substantial offence, distress or prejudice.”

In summary, all this undermines the first requirement in the Press Council’s principles dealing with accuracy and clarity. Funnell has consistently failed to provide accuracy and clarity on her relationship to Arndt. This is unprofessional conduct by a journalist and, as well as the breaches listed, a breach of Principle 1: Ensure that factual material in news reports and elsewhere is accurate and not misleading and is distinguishable from other material such as opinion.

Similarly, the publishers of this article breached the principles described above in failing to ensure the publication complied with appropriate journalist standards.

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| **Section 7. Were you directly affected by the article's contents?**  \* |
| ( ) Yes  (X) No |
|  |
|  |
| **7.b. If 'No', what is the main reason for your complaint?** |
|  |

I believe rape and sexual crime in general is a serious issue in our society and that its seriousness should not be undermined by misguided media scare campaigns and attempts to discredit people who provide facts that counter ideological and exaggerated claims. Justice is not served by media activity that steers from the facts and fails to report this important issue accurately and fairly.