

POLICY – DEFAMATION

Purpose of Policy

The purpose of this policy of Eastern Community Broadcasters Inc hereafter referred to as Radio Eastern fm is to provide guidance to members to ensure they do not make defamatory statements about any person or organisation.

Background

Radio Eastern fm provides programming 24 hours per day, 7 days per week with a high volume of presenters, contributors and organisations presenting throughout the week. Maintaining a strict oversight of defamation requirements is essential to ensure responsible broadcasting.

Policy

Presenters must at all times, avoid making defamatory statements about any person or organisation, and should be aware that:

Programme undertakings will make Presenters responsible; and that:

- a. any statement is prima facie defamatory of a person, corporation or other entity if it tends to make ordinary reasonable members of the community think worse of that person, corporation or other entity
- b. defamed person, corporation or other entity may bring action to vindicate its reputation;

Liability for defamatory matter broadcast on the Station, would fall on Radio Eastern fm, the speaker and the scriptwriter.

Liability for defamatory matter may also apply to any station personnel if they knew the content of the material and could have prevented it being broadcast.

This Policy is supported by the Defamation Procedure(s):

Policy reviewed and updated: 06-03-2025