

Lisa & Fiona 17.06.01

(44:52 minutes)

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Kerry: and er how much time have you spent over there (in France)?

Lisa: probably .. oh you know an enormous amount of time like three weeks

Kerry: [right]

Lisa: [erm all up but sort of couple of no probably ??? been I've been a couple of times once just to Paris and once to down where Helen and Robin are in Montcuque and erm ah you know and I was prepared for this rude French stereotype and not seen evidence of them

Kerry: it's funny isn't it it's just yeah but they do have this repu[tation]

Lisa: [I know]

Kerry: 'cos a lot of the French speakers I've taped I've said you know what's your idea of a typical French person blah blah blah and they'll actually say "oh well I know we've got this reputation of being really arrogant or rude" have you come across many French speakers?

Fiona: not really I mean I've come across the stereotype but not not in actual French speakers

Kerry: right

Fiona: yeah

Kerry: yeah it is it's interesting

Lisa: mm

Kerry: but it's supposed to be from the way they communicate like the communication styles they tend to be quite argumentative it's very important to them to have an opinion and to share it and =

Lisa: = you
see that's exactly like me perhaps that's why it didn't bother me

Kerry: well maybe it's a =

Lisa: = a.. although my.. because I don't know you know my French is so you know hello and goodbye and thanks and please

Kerry: yeah

Lisa: erm perhaps I didn't get I dunno I just er I think I missed it

Kerry: yeah don't know it's interesting well I might s.. might ask you that question then 'cos it's quite relevant er is it always important to give your opinion do you think? Is it important to have one and is it important to give it?

Lisa: I think it's important to have one

Kerry: mm

Lisa: erm I guess not about generally everything but sort of mainstream stuff I constantly am amazed at Australians aren't very good at erm I mean don't Australians have well thought opinions on stuff?

Kerry: mm

Lisa: but like serious stuff they can talk to you about the football but if you ask them about erm er I dunno .. government social policies most of them'd probably look quite blankly at you? (*RI -seek agreement*)

Kerry: do you find that as well?

Fiona: yeah the bulk of Australians I find that erm people actually either have no opinion or have an opinion and I prefer to have .. erm an open mind? (*RI*) like have an opinion but have it erm able to be changed? (*RI*) there'll be lots of people you read their opinions you know when they write to The Age or to the Herald Sun you know whoever they write to editors and they say you know "this is this is my opinion and this is the way it is" and you sort of think "mm is that .." it's sort of they they say it as if it's fact

Lisa: yeah

Kerry: mm

Fiona: erm yeah like very opinionated erm .. either that or they don't really think it's their business

Kerry: mm

Fiona: and I think both of those two extremes are really quite unhealthy um yeah

Kerry: what'd you say *opinionated* means?

Fiona: unflexible (*sic*) in your opinions

Lisa: and vocal in your opinions [and NOT] prepared to listen to anybody else

Fiona: [and vocal]

Lisa: I think i.. from .. I .. I'm happy with people who have an opinion erm .. and er I mean I'm I think I've got ???????? I have fairly strong views on things

Kerry: mm

Lisa: erm that probably aren't gonna change however I'm pretty tolerant a.. I know the [fact] that like that's what I think is exactly that it's just me

Fiona: [mm]

Kerry: mm

Lisa: and what I think and I'm quite happy that that .. I think it's great that er you know there's diverse opinion because that's what makes things healthy

Fiona: mm

Lisa: so I think you know I'm the kind to like people to have a view on stuff but (*hadn't finished*)

Fiona: [particularly ?????] straight out [you] know there's like so many different people that =

Lisa: [I believe] [yeah] = that's
right but be tolerant of others' views

Kerry: mm

Lisa: and you know because I think it doesn't mean it's right

Fiona: mm

Kerry: but do you think *opinionated* has a negative connotation in =

Lisa: = I think *opinionated* does have a ..
a .. opinionated I think as Fiona said reflects that in.. inability to take anybody else's opinions on board

Fiona/Kerry: mm

Lisa: and that you're very stuck on your own opinions

Kerry: How important is being truthful in a relationship?

Fiona: @@

Kerry: and when I say relationship I mean any relationship like friends whatever partners

Fiona: I used to think it was of the utmost importance but I think through for me it's through studying other cultures that I see that actually sometimes the truth is not as important as people's relationship and people's erm ... I mean there are certain relationships where there's no point being entirely truthful because it would just hurt the other person and if you can sort of temper the truth with not lies but with sort of (*count hedges*) withholding some of the truth maybe

Kerry: mm

Fiona: I think that's important whereas I used to think you could say everything so long as you were being truthful that it was okay but I don't think that's entirely true um but I think if i.. if I'm put on the spot I'll be entirely truthful I mean if someone asks me a question point blank I'd find it very hard to lie and not feel that was bad

Kerry: mm

Lisa: yeah [I agree]

Fiona: [but] yeah =

Lisa: = I think you you have to be careful with people's feelings and and [that]

Fiona: [mmm]

Lisa: but if someone asked me a question point blank I couldn't l.. lie and I don't .. [I]

Fiona: [mm]

Lisa: wouldn't wanna be wi.. erm truthfulness is one thing that I find that I value very much in [people]

Fiona: [mm] [me too]

Lisa: [??] I don't erm er no I have erm a situation with my mother who at times lies and I really find that hard to cope with

Fiona: Kerry: mm

Kerry: is that 'cos it's your mother 'cos you [don't] that's it's just that [whole con]cept of mm yeah

Lisa: [no] [mm yeah]
and I think I mean I work in erm er a large business and I find some of the shmoozing and lying and carrying on really hard to deal with [I mean] I've left previously left a job because I was asked to to fudge some numbers and wasn't comfortable with it =

Fiona: [mmm] = see I would only lie to protect someone else's feelings that would be the only excuse for lying in my opinion and even then you'd want the lie to be as close as possible to the truth you'd want it to be a a white lie as they talk about rather than a big fat lie

Kerry: mm

Fiona: yeah

Lisa: yeah I mean it de.. it depends what it is it's you know yeah do you like my new dress not exactly no in fact I think it's the worst thing I've ever seen but you're not gonna say that to somebody it's one it's not a really a a [it's not a it's not a life or death] it's not a really important question anyway

Fiona: [no I had to say that @@@]

Kerry: right yeah =

Lisa: = and you don't want to hurt their feelings if someone said to me is my husband sleeping with Jenny down the road and I knew I would have to say

Kerry: yeah

Lisa: if I thought if I knew it was true yes

Kerry: yes yeah =

Fiona: = I probably wouldn't say yes I'd try and say yes without saying yes exactly like you'd [you'd say "well] well I I have actually seen him over there a couple of times like in the last week but I don't know" I [I ?????????]

Lisa: [you'd drop a hint] [I if I didn't if I] actually didn't know defini.. like if I especially if I hadn't seen them having a snog somewhere I wouldn't say yes

Fiona: yeah =

Lisa: = if I knew it would have to be that sort of question is you have to really know your stuff

Kerry: yeah yeah =

Fiona: = mm

Kerry: but if you did you wouldn't lie about it

Lisa: uh uh

Kerry: yeah if someone lent you a book for example erm a if a good friend of yours lent you what they considered to be you know the best book they'd ever read and they lent it to you and you read it and you think it's a pile of crap would you tell them? (3.0)

Lisa: I perhaps wouldn't tell them it was a pile of crap I'd probably couch it in terms like "yeah it was okay it wasn't really my style of book" or something like that

Fiona: mm

Lisa: I de.. I'd certainly tell them that I didn't enjoy it as much as they did

Kerry: right =

Fiona: = I'd try and find the good in it I'd try and say "oh it had a fantastic plot" or "I really liked this character" or erm it would depend on how close the friendship is too actually if it's a close friendship I'd probably try and be honest but if they're not quite so close I wouldn't care I'd say just say "yeah it was good it was great" [there was actually a]

Lisa: [????] I wonder if that's not an age thing a bit? 'cos I think when I was younger I would've done exactly that?

Fiona: yeah just one of my friends lent me a book and I I didn't enjoy it at all and I know when I give it back to her I'm gonna say "yeah it was great I really enjoyed it" and I just didn't enjoy it at all but I again there's no point saying I enjoyed it or didn't enjoy it there's no point in you know causing conflict and [there's no]

Lisa: [I guess] it's a it's a bit like that do you like my dress thing isn't it [it's not really worth making an] issue about =

Fiona: [well yeah I thought that]

Kerry: = but why do you think it would cause conflict if you (1.5) if you actually said "oh I didn't really like it" why'd it I mean that really shouldn't cause conflict but it probably would [??]

Fiona: [mmm]

Lisa: it wouldn't with my friends

Kerry: right

Fiona: I think because she lent it to me because she thought I'd enjoy it it was about it was a book about words and she thought I'd enjoy it 'cos it was my field of study and she'd done it meaning to be generous

Kerry: mm

Fiona: and for me to then say “I didn’t like it”

Kerry:/Lisa: mm

Fiona: would be a rebuff to her

Kerry: okay yeah

Fiona: erm

Lisa: er yeah and I mean probably don’t do it with my friends as much as I would with erm um my dad’s remarried? and er his wife is lovely and we get on really well but she’s got quite odd taste in things and I always get a bit panicky round my birthday because I I know I’m gonna get something and it’s gonna be like “mm nice thought!”

Fiona: yeah

Lisa: and you know and there is no way in the world I would want to hurt her feelings?

Kerry: yes

Lisa: so I merrily chirp along and say [“oh] lovely ??

Fiona: [yeah] I tell my stepmother that I love the red nail polish and red lipstick that she gives me [and it’s] [whao] I’m not at all into those sort of things =

Lisa: [see?] [yeah] = and that’s and it’s just not worth being truthful in [those] instances =

Fiona: [no] = I’ve even worn some of the things she’s given me [when] when I’ve gone over to visit just to make her feel [??????] @@@

Lisa: [oh!] [I know] I’ve I’ve done that too @@@

Fiona: oh I love the orange shirt orange is my colour

Kerry: yeah

Lisa: ugh!

Lisa: what was I gonna s.. yes when my grandmother wasn’t blind she used to give me these lovely every year these lovely I’m not even sure that you can purchase them any more underwear pan.. underpants that came up to about here (@@@) and they were always these psychedelic pinks and greens and [oranges with] a bit of cheap lace on them they were foul

Fiona: [oh no!]

Kerry: they sound fantastic they’d be collectors’ items [by now]

Lisa: [I wish] I’d kept them you know [they ???]
(cut off)

Fiona: [my mum used] to give me underwear that came up yeah past my waist and then one year I told her that I didn't like them I was being really honest and she got me really revolting frilly really like overly disgusting =

Lisa: = like crutchless undies or something

Fiona: 'cos I told her the other ones were daggy so she bought me something that she thought was really really sexy or something like that

Kerry: but it's interesting that you can't even tell your mum 'cos I know I couldn't

Fiona/Lisa: no

Kerry: you know the stuff my mum gives me I just say "thanks" and

Fiona: yeah

Lisa: I'm the same with my mum [??]

Fiona: [and] then hope that they don't ask you how much you like it because I don't want to lie too much

Kerry: yeah [like]

Lisa: [you know] ah

Kerry: well I recently it was my birthday a couple of months ago and Mum sent me a picture and it was actually quite nice but when I spoke to her on the phone she said "oh and and let me know if you like it 'cos it's a set of two and I'll send you the next one for your wedding anniversary" now how could y.. if I really hated it how could I actually put in that position say to her "no no actually I don't I don't like it that much don't buy the [second one]"

Lisa: [and the other] one's in the mail

Kerry: yeah yeah exactly so it's like as it happens I did quite like them so it's alright they're in the front bedroom

Lisa: oh

Kerry: I'll show you them on the way out yeah so it was it wasn't too bad but I mean it's funny you can't even tell your mum that [??]

Fiona: [I] actually don't like getting presents because I don't like being put on the spot to have to like things and I don't really want many things?

Kerry: mm

Fiona: so I sort of say "look don't buy me things" 'cos I'll end up throwing them out even I don't tell them that I'll throw them out but that's the truth

Kerry: yeah

Lisa: and when you have to open them in front of pe.. (Fiona: ah!) I'm actually lu.. my my family are all interstate so I actually get a bit of breathing space because they normally come in the post and I can you know open [them]

Fiona: [yeah]

Lisa: and think "mm how am I gonna put a positive on this" [whereas it's not like getting]

Fiona: [practise saying "it's lovely it's lovely"]

Lisa: erm them in front of people

Kerry: yeah

Lisa: isn't that awful when you get to open a present and the person's sitting there and you've got to fake this "oh mm fantastic!"

Kerry: yeah

Fiona: and they're watching your facial expression to make sure that there's not even the slightest trace of disappointment

Lisa: and I have got apparently a very erm expressive face and [I'm not good] I'm a shocking liar =

Fiona: [me too] =
yeah

Lisa: because it's something I don't choose to do unless I really have to and I don't mask my emotions very well

Kerry: mm

Lisa: which is a good thing I think [but]

Kerry: [yeah]

Lisa: erm i.. it gets me into strife at times

Kerry: yeah (@@@@)

Fiona: mm I'm I'm the same like I actually really like that .. that I'm open about my emotions but every now and again I think God I wish I could hide .. disappointment or anger or

Kerry: mm =

Lisa: = mm I do too 'cos it com.. becomes an issue for me in the workplace a bit(?)

Fiona: yeah could imagine actually

Kerry: mm

Lisa: mm I then slip into the "emotional female" stereotype that

Fiona: [mm]

Lisa: [men] do so love to pu.. push

Kerry: yes yeah

Fiona: whereas you see it as a strength most of the time but every now and again ..

Kerry: mm well it's interesting 'cos that was one of my other questions actually erm is being emotional seen as a good thing? [do you think]

Lisa: [not in the] workplace it's not .. yet I .. for me personally I don't care if people .. I think it's kind of good that people feel that they can express how they feel erm it's not you know if I'm having a bad day I'm having a bad day

Fiona: mm

Lisa: and I don't see why I need to protect people from that it's not like it affects my ability to do things

Kerry: mm

Lisa: erm but I know that I have to 'cos society's just not ready for it

Kerry: mm

Lisa: we like everything you know if people.. seem to think they're meant to be happy a hundred percent of the time and that's their normal behaviour and I mean that's just garbage

Kerry:/Fiona: mm

Lisa: nice idea

Fiona: I think it it depends entirely on what the emotion is and what the context is I mean I sing in a choir and I really enjoy it and I'm on stage smiling and .. I've had lots of people in the audience come up afterwards and say oh lovely to see you enjoying yourself because.. you're supposed to be enjoying yourself you know and I think if you see people on stage who aren't expressing an emotion then that's really strange because they should be enjoying it if they're not w.. w.. why what's going on or if they're not expressing it why you know if they look po-faced on stage it's really quite strange(?)

Kerry: yeah

Fiona: but in a work situation you're not ev.. I dunno I feel like everything's supposed to be your emotions are supposed to be understated erm

Kerry: do you think that's just in the work situation though or is it .. sort of in general really?

Fiona: I'm not sure actually I mean I'm an I'm an emotional sort of person and I express all my emotions and I know that bothers some people

Kerry: / Lisa: mm (*check lengths of monologues compared to French*)

Fiona: it really does erm (2.0) (*NB long pause and no interruptions from Lis*) I think there's also gender issues I think women who express anger that's really quite or.. or if they express .. I dunno I think there are some emotions that women aren't expected to express they're supposed to be happy and bubbly and smiley but if they get angry or erm frustrated then that's (1.5)I dunno

Lisa: yeah

Fiona: it's they're not they're not supposed to express those sort of emotions

Lisa: erm (*hedge or hesitance as floor gaining strategy?*) I know in my .. own experience I am normally a fairly up, bubbly, happy person and when I'm not even if I'm in a bad mood if I'm just having a day when I'm feeling a quiet and not feeling up, very out there people will ask me

Fiona: what's up =

Lisa: = what's up why are you in a bad mood .. and on about the tenth time I actually am @@@@

Kerry: there's nothing gonna put you in a bad mood [quicker] than people saying [??????]

Fiona: [mmmmm]

Lisa: [so you know] i.. it it's interesting that you know when I'm just generally a.. it.. it happens when I'm rea.. you know if I'm really under the pump or busy

Kerry: mm

Lisa: I I kind of retreat into what I'm doing (?)

Fiona: mm

Lisa: and don't want to talk to people and people come up and talk to me and I'll be .. shorter with them than I normally would (?) you know like yeah okay I can do that now but I can't you know (*use of you know as solidarity?*) haven't got time to chat ???? and people then think I'm in a bad mood

Kerry: yeah

Fiona: [mm]

Lisa: [and it's] astounding and I've had you know I just don't even know how to deal with it

Kerry: yeah or you just shouldn't be too happy (how's that for a pommy accent?!) the rest of the time you see?

Lisa: no I'll look a bit more miserable .. miserable bitch

Kerry: yes that's right that'll do then people'll get used to it

Lisa: they're getting used to it at the moment actually

Fiona: actually you were just asking before about erm about if it's just in the workplace I know on public transport I've laughed at things [that are]

Lisa: [ah!]

Fiona: really funny and everyone looks at you (?) but sometimes things are really funny and you can't help but laugh at them

Lisa: public transport is fascinating

Kerry: mm

Lisa: everybody's sits there

Fiona: and tries to be not there (*finishes her sentence*)

Lisa: (*doesn't acknowledge but continues own sentence*) and nobody talks I mean people hones.. I I'll often have a chat with people

Fiona: mm

Lisa: you know having a nice day and they honestly look at you they think I'm a loop loopy .. which I may well be but .. they really do look at you as if there's something strange

Kerry: mm

Fiona: the other day something

Kerry: that's true you're not [supposed to ???]

Fiona: [the other day I was] I'm on a tram and when the tram stopped three cars went past and nearly hit this old lady and most of the tram just sat there in complete silence as if nothing'd happened and there were a couple of us like getting really agitated by it saying no this is really awful look something bad's happened

Kerry: mm

Fiona: but everyone else was trying to pretend they weren't there

Kerry: mm

Fiona: erm and we were trying to encourage the tra.. the driver to get their number plate 'cos you could see it and there were just the three cars in front of him

Kerry: yeah

Fiona: and ??? most people were trying to .. pretend that nothing had happened and sit there quietly

Lisa: do you I've =

Fiona: = read their book =

Lisa: = do you think that's changed? I kind of feel like that .. it's a real society thing

Fiona: mm =

Lisa: = where we're so focused on ourselves that stuff happening to other people we just try and ignore

Fiona: mm I don't know what it is people don't seem to think it's their responsibility to look out for other people

Lisa: no and [but it]

Fiona: [or]

Lisa: and I mean it's even like communities have fallen away

Fiona: mm

Lisa: and .. Flemington's actually quite interesting because I still feel like I'm part of the community I mean I can walk down the s.. shop and the.. bottle shop bloke says g'day and the butcher says g'day and [???

Fiona: [yeah]

Lisa: but that's that's kind of fast

Kerry: mm

Lisa: going away

Kerry: yeah

Lisa: and I think that's all that sort of stu.. [like]

Fiona: [Bruns]wick's still got that kind of feel which is nice .. a little bit but not (1.0) not as much as when I was growing up I don't think

Lisa: I grew up in a country town so [????????????]

Fiona: [oh @@@@]

Lisa: I'm kind of used to that

Fiona: mm

Lisa: but erm .. yeah it's sort of .. th.. people do turn a blind eye to stuff like that

Kerry: well I I saw in the paper a while ago there was this picture of a corpse on a beach in Italy I don't know if you saw [that]

Lisa: [I did] and they kept swimming .. no-one did [anything about it]

Kerry: [the corpse was] there for hours before anyone did anything about it on a really busy crowded beach [and they just ???]

Lisa: [????????????]

Fiona: [oh my] goodness

Lisa: it was some it was right you know a a resort area

Kerry: mm

Lisa: of Italy

Kerry: yeah =

Fiona: = wow

Kerry: and erm someone was telling me recently there's this there's a program on SBS once a week I can't remember what it's called but they did the same thing they put this they actually planted a corpse somewhere I think it was in Canada the US and [Britain]

Fiona: [isn't] that unethical

Kerry: well they probably didn't go through the ethics committee before they did that one but they planted a corpse somewhere and it.. within the three countries sort of saw

Fiona: mm

Kerry: timed how long it took someone to actually try and do something about this and we won in Britain apparently except the guy who actually did something about it wasn't British he was Indian or something [like you know]

Fiona: [wow]

Kerry: over on holiday and just had a you know a different attitude to this (1.0) but just plonked a corpse in a public place and just waited to see what happened =

Fiona: = wow yeah one time I was in the city and there was erm a man ramming into another car and at the.. the the erm other car had a woman in it who had a veil over her as a .. obviously a Muslim and I found that really quite disturbing because obviously I mean he was really like smashing into her car and she was just so vulnerable she had a little daughter next to her on the front seat and it was just like you sort of looked at the picture and you thought like someone's got to help this woman and no-one was like all the cars were just driving past and you know trying to get out of their way and I just I couldn't believe it I was on my bicycle and I had to go to the police station I took down his number plate I couldn't just ignore it [like]

Kerry: [yeah]

Fiona: this poor woman and yet most people do I mean most people just don't know what to do or don't feel they should get involved or .. I don't know .. try to pretend it's not going on but I wonder like what they did when they got home whether they worried about this poor woman

Kerry: yeah

Fiona: you know

Lisa: yeah 'cos I mean .. you see it .. a heroin overdoses and stuff are fairly common around

Fiona: mm

Lisa: where I am and erm (2.0) the number of people who just you know look and actually step over them

Fiona: mm

Kerry: in.. up here in Flemington you mean?

Lisa: no in town where I work [???

Kerry: [oh] where you work

Lisa: ?????????? train station and stuff Melbourne Central there's actually quite a healthy heroin trade

Fiona: mm

Lisa: erm mm er if it could be called healthy

Kerry: yeah @@@

Lisa: perhaps not a good choice of words

Kerry: the dealers [consider it healthy] yeah

Lisa: [but erm] i.. I mean people .. j.. and I've done it too I.. not step over them I

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I've seen other people having .. struggling and collapse and I've just automatically assumed it's [an overdose]

Fiona: [mm]

Lisa: which is not not er probably a good thing

Kerry: mm

Lisa: but people just won't stop and help people

Kerry: yeah (3.0) no it's funny .. well not funny ..

Lisa: [????]

Fiona: [I think] also with emo.. I mean just coming back to the emotion thing I think .. not crying a lot of people don't know how to deal with other people crying

Kerry: mm

Fiona: but on the flip side of that my friends that I can cry in front of we've got very close friendships because we can cry cry in front of each other

Kerry: mm

Fiona: if that's kind of a bit of a erm bit of a gauge of how good friends we are

Kerry: mm

Fiona: if we can cry in front of each other then we're then we're close and if we can't well .. yeah we're a bit more distant

Kerry: yeah (1.0) it's interesting 'cos I usually when there's a French person and an Australian here

Fiona: mm

Kerry: you get quite different views of of expressing emotions 'cos in France it's just a lot more acceptable and people can be angry .. like you were saying in the workplace [or]

Lisa: [mm]

Kerry: whatever people get angry and it's fine it's sort of accepted more and there is actually a category of murder in France called "a crime of passion" =

Fiona: = yeah

Kerry: which I just think is absolutely amazing 'cos like we just wouldn't have that [they]

Fiona: [no]

Kerry: kind of consider and yet people here would kill people in a a jealous rage or whatever that's all it is but it just doesn't qualify as having a separate =

Lisa: = [yeah]

Fiona: = [yeah] erm yeah I've actually got a friend who's just broken up with his partner and he's really angry at the moment and I kind of have trouble with that anger like I feel

Kerry: mm

Fiona: which is funny 'cos I know that of course he's angry 'cos you know he's just broken up with his partner but I still feel that he should be able to control it or contain it somehow (?) it's really weird

Kerry: y[eah]

Fiona: [and] I sort of feel bad for thinking that I feel like I should be more sympathetic towards but I do feel that you should be able to you should be able to control your anger

Kerry: mm

Fiona: erm even though it's perfectly accepta... of course it's of course it's it's a natural reaction when you've broken your relationship's ended

Kerry: [yeah]

Lisa: [I] think we or Australians tend to th.. you know sort of like you know get over it

Fiona: yeah =

Lisa: = it's that sort of .. that's our answer for everything get over it get down [???

Fiona: [yeah]

Lisa: get
down the pub and have a quiet beer @@@@ you'll be right]

Kerry: [you'll be] right

All: @@@@

Fiona: it's all good that's actually one of my one of my favourite expressions at the moment oh it's all good you know people'll say oh this is happening this is happening oh it's it's all good it's all good

Kerry: yeah

Fiona: nothing's nothing's a problem it's all good

Kerry: breath....

Lisa: so I think in the sorry (*for cutting me off*) just going back to the anger in the workplace thing

Fiona: mm

Lisa: it can be acceptable (?) but it tends to be when men certain men [who]

Fiona: [yeah]

Lisa: can get away with it and that's about [it]

Fiona: [ex]actly I don't think women are all.. like s.. even senior women aren't allowed [to]

Lisa: [no]

Kerry: no it's just seen as being hysterical ??? or something =

Fiona: = mm but there's this erm a particular discussion I was in involved in and I was getting quite heated and there were two other men the two men started getting heated and erm a.. afterwards like b.. both of them were getting really angry at me for getting angry and afterwards one of these girls came up to me and she said look you know the only reason they were angry with you was because you're a just 'cos you're female like she was she was saying they were yelling they were raising their voices they were using expletives they were being really aggressive and all I was doing was being erm eh persistent in my argument

Kerry: mm

Fiona: and she said it was really quite interesting seeing how people were really like it's it seems acceptable for men to get angry (?) even yelling and being 'cos that's sort of seen as typical male behaviour and yet for a woman to do it it's really .. um .. quite confronting

Kerry: [mm]

Lisa: [yeah] a it's interesting you know erm I often get told people are scared of me at work

Fiona: yeah =

Lisa: = 'cos I'm perceived as fairly erm strong (?)

Kerry: mm yeah [??]

Lisa: [and]

Fiona: [people] are scared of me

Lisa: that that you know that's an interesting thing because I don't I don't see myself like that at all

Kerry: mm

Lisa: but people .. you know it's er don't tangle with Lisa it's [a]

Fiona: [yeah] =

Kerry: = and is that people under you or
the [same]

Lisa: [yeah]

Kerry: level

Lisa: no probably under me

Kerry: mm yeah 'cos er so there's [an authority ??????????????]

Lisa: under me that sounds really nice doesn't it

Kerry: so [????????]

Lisa: [right er yeah] [??????]

Kerry: [yeah] who work for you

Lisa: yeah

Kerry: so there's an authority thing there as well =

Lisa: = probably not people who people who work for me probably
wouldn't see me like that [it's]

Fiona: [yeah]

Lisa: the people

Kerry: ah

Lisa: who I mean deal with me on a on certain issues (?)

Kerry: right [yeah]

Fiona: [mm]

Kerry: yeah well you just mentioned something about a the typical Australian there so what is a
typical Australian what's what's the stereotypical Australian and do they really exist =

Fiona: laid back very laid back I think .. um a bit apathetic (2.0) um (1.0) watches the footy [cares]

Lisa: [??? ??]

Fiona: cares more about the footy than about politics

Lisa: oh yeah

Fiona: um

Lisa: they're probably higher quality people on the football field though

All: @@@

Lisa: ?????? about politicians

Kerry: have you got a man or a woman in mind =

Fiona: = I've got both I had a man initially but I can see married like a married couple as being your typical Australians um .. yeah (2.0)

Lisa: I don't see the you know the old stereotype of erm you know the bloke with the beer gut and the you know that was portrayed fairly heavily and promoted you know through various things tha.. don't see that as the typical you know Australian =

Fiona: [no]

Kerry: = not till you go into the country =

Fiona: = yeah [see I ??]

Kerry: [not till] you go out into the country

Lisa: yeah [oh]

Fiona: [see] I'm quite a city girl but living in one of those sort of outer suburbs

Kerry: right =

Fiona: = you know yeah [???? blue collar]

Lisa: [can't recommend ??????]

Fiona: yeah

Lisa: erm my dad's still in the country

Kerry: mm

Lisa: and he's quite stereotypical

Kerry: is he? =

Lisa: = ????? country ????? thinks Pauline Hanson's okay [?????]

Fiona: [o:h dear]

Lisa: yeah we just don't talk politics at home any [more]

Fiona: [yeah] yeah

Kerry: talk footy

Lisa: footy's safe [??]

Fiona: I was gonna say was gonna say to you your typical Australian wouldn't talk politics [it's]

Lisa: [no]

Fiona: just not not an Australian thing to talk about =

Lisa: = I know I cons.. I get actually quite er upset
with friends who have no interest [and ???]

Fiona: [yeah]

Lisa: ??? say you know make sort of un .. educated comments about people's behaviour yeah er
typical Australian back to that .. erm I don't even know if there is such a thing any more I just think
we're such a mix =

Fiona: = we are see I still think of the typical Australian as being Anglo but the more I think about
that that's not actually true these people are Australian like you know when they have those erm when
they have ads where you can see they're trying to get like you know six typical Australians and they
have at least two people from other ethnic backgrounds

Kerry: yeah

Fiona: like Greeks and Italians are so part of the Australian culture they just so [are]

Lisa: [you] don't even
think of [them]

Fiona: [no exactly] exactly

Lisa: you know non Aus =

Fiona: = not at all and sa.. same with um with lo.. a um not not every Asian nationality but
certainly like people from China or Viet.. Vietnam and those sort of places yeah totally Australian

Lisa: I still think we've got a way to go (?) with the the the cultures that look different (?)

Fiona: yeah

Lisa: we struggle a bit with that (?) =

Fiona: = I still have trouble with really black people (?) like that doesn't st.. they
don't strike me as being Australian typically Australian

Lisa: I think we're sort of used to the Greek and Italian communi[ties]

Fiona: [yeah]

Lisa: because they don't look so dissimilar to

Fiona: no =

Lisa: = you know it's still an Anglo-Saxon look effectively

Kerry: mm

Fiona: yeah

Lisa: um but I think we still struggle with people who look different to us we're not very I I f.. I don't I think Australians are reasonably intolerant

Kerry: you're doing very well at anticipating all my questions @@@ are we multicultural like do we are we really multicultural?

Lisa: some of us (?) =

Fiona: = I think in some ways we are like what's Australian food and to me Australian food includes pasta it includes sushi it includes dolmades do you know what I it really does like I think of them as being part of the Australian diet and I don't th.. I don't think it's at all strange to go down to the markets and grab a couple of dolmades and humus and that sort of thing but linguistically no:: like you I'd expect everyone to speak English like and be surprised if people don't speak English um no I mean li.. like it's not that unusual to see like different weddings or hear different music coming out of you know people's you know the builder's stereo while he's building or something that's that's not strange at all .. or seeing in certain parts of Melbourne like particularly Brunswick where I am seeing you know women walking around in saris or in you know with scarves over their head that's perfectly normal too I think .. but in the workplace like in any white collar workplace I don't think it's multicultural in some ways (?) like it's

Kerry: in[tresting yeah ?????]

Fiona: [it's not ?????? ????] um

Kerry: do you have a lot of different cultures working with you?

Lisa: we [do]

Kerry: [you] do?

Lisa: yeah

Kerry: okay mm

Lisa: erm you name it we've got them I would suspect

Kerry: where do you work again?

Lisa: I work for Origin Energy

Kerry: that's right [yeah]

Fiona: [mm] =

Lisa: = and actually we have got pretty much every stereotype [covered]

Fiona: [yeah] but say for example I mean looking at this discourse norms and things I think you'd expect an Anglo-Saxon .. discourse

style in the workplace you'd expect I don't I mean I dunno like you know whatever things we've been talking about you know you'd expect .. if there's a French person you'd expect that they still know how to behave in an Australian way that they know how much emotion's acceptable they know how much to question their superiors they know all those kind of things (?)

Kerry: mm

Fiona: um

Lisa: yeah

Kerry: but it's interesting how you were saying we still struggle with it

Fiona: mm

Kerry: I mean [do you think]

Lisa: [I think we do] I think i.. Flemington and Brunswick are probably not

Fiona: your typical =

Lisa: = your typical examples

Fiona: mm

Lisa: I think the people who live in these areas are er well educated pretty broadminded

Fiona: mm =

Lisa: = got fairly strong social values

Kerry: mm

Lisa: that that's just the sort of peo[ple]

Fiona: [mm]

Lisa: ????? and hence multiculturalism around here is probably a not an issue I think if you go out to the country where my dad is for example in fact he said to me "we're getting some bloody Iranians coming to live here"

Fiona: mm

Lisa: a few people from the a a few refugees and they're moving 'em up here I don't think we want that"

Fiona: [yeah]

Lisa: [I'm like] yeah I didn't even want to start on it

Kerry: [no]

Lisa: ['cos] ?????????? and just so it there's em .. and I mean people er I think you only need to look at the number of people who have erm taken the Pauline Hanson sort of platform and run with [it]

Fiona: [mm]

Lisa: and it scares the hell out of me how many people have

Kerry: yes

Lisa: really think she's got sensible things to say

Kerry: mm

Lisa: erm .. er a.. and that really just makes me think as a nation we're not very good at it

Fiona: no even like not even at that e.. extreme I went to a school where there was about a quarter of the girls were um from Asian backgrounds and there wasn't much mingling (?) between the Asian students and the you know the rest of us and I mean the rest weren't exactly homogenous I mean there were lots of Greeks and Italians but there wasn't much other variety other than that

Kerry: mm

Fiona: and um yeah so there was sort of this other group that they weren't mixed so they were kind of I mean it's multicultural in a sense but and I mean they were from all sorts of different um different Asian backgrounds and they mixed together so there'd be like there were a couple of Japanese kids from er er Indonesia from China from Hong Kong from Singapore all sorts of places but .. they yeah didn't really mix (*compare euh/er, seems like Aussies hesitate less - don't have/don't need same floor holding strategies?*)

Lisa or Kerry: yeah it's interesting [isn't it]

Fiona: [the two groups] and I think there's a lot of that at at university as well

Kerry: mm

Lisa: i.. er.. a.. I I often think about you know .. you know not often but I do think about things like when we t.. when other cultures come to live in Australia (?)

Fiona: [yeah]

Lisa: [how] much do we expect them to ..

Fiona: assimilate =

Lisa: = assimilate change their culture or are we comforta..ble with them effectively maintaining their own culture

Fiona: m[m]

Lisa: [and] not taking on much of .. the Australian culture (?) and I'm kind of not co.. com.. comfortable with either scenario [and]

Fiona: [mm]

Lisa: I think (2.0) particularly with erm with some of the Asian cultures that are be.. and the African cultures that are quite different to ours

Fiona: yeah

Lisa: we somehow have to find this sort of middle ground where we're comfortable with them expressing and living their own culture

Kerry: mm

Lisa: but there's also enough of sort of picking up the the gene[ral] culture

Fiona: [mm]

Lisa: that it all fits together a bit better 'cos I think that doesn't seem to work too [well]

Fiona: [yeah] see I've got a a friend whose parents are from Hong Kong and they've brought their kids up in quite a traditional way like they all speak fluent Chinese or Mandarin I think it is um they I mean that they're .. practising Buddhists and they've got all these sorts of things but at the same time they're quite well integrated into into Australian society I think that's for me that's like the perfect medium =

Lisa: = yeah

Fiona: you know like they they all can participate in society they've got both um Chinese friends and Anglo-Saxon friends um .. although for my friend there's a real identity problem with that that she doesn't know where she where she fits in

Kerry: [mmm]

Fiona: [but] um but I still that's that's sort of healthier than than being trapped in one or the other =

Lisa: =
yeah I agree

Kerry: mm

Lisa: I thi.. it it I mean it wou.. it's hard you know being an Anglo-Saxon you don't even know how it feels [being ??????]

Fiona: [yeah]

Kerry: [that's right]

Lisa: [and it's] so it's kind of you know

Kerry: yeah

Lisa: you don't want to be trying to tell them what to do =

Fiona: = [yeah]

Lisa: [because] it's not something I've .. lived

Kerry: mm

Fiona: I'd say I mean I dunno this is completely trivial in a way but I reckon that's lovely like in Melbourne the way you've got little pockets of .. of different cultures and I think that .. makes it so

vibrant like I love you know you go to go through to Caulfield and there's a little sort of Jewish enclave and then you go through I dunno all sorts of areas and there's lots of little um patches but I don't think you want those patches to be .. enormous (?) *(asking approval but doesn't wait for it)*

Kerry:/Lisa: [mmm]

Fiona: [like] you don't want to feel like you can't go there =

Lisa: yeah [I..]

Kerry: [yeah] 'cos you create [ghe]

Lisa: [I..]

Kerry: ttoos that way

Lisa: [yeah yeah]

Fiona: [exactly exactly]

Lisa: that's right I .. and I imagine you know it must be awfully important to maintain your sense of culture from identity [and]

Fiona: [yeah]

Lisa: you know I think erm the Aboriginal people have really found that over the last twenty [years]

Fiona: [mm]

Lisa: as they've tried to really .. their bring their culture a bit more back to

Kerry: mm

Fiona: [yeah]

Lisa: [to] to what it was

Kerry: yeah

Lisa: erm so yeah I think it must be ????? important you know we just don't have one as Anglo-Saxon Australians so I mean we don't

Kerry: yeah =

Fiona: = see I reckon our culture's just bits and pieces of [other]

Lisa: [yeah]

Fiona: people's cultures =

Lisa: = we don't have it .. you know if if I got erm if I decided to move to another to another country

Fiona: yeah?

Lisa: I wouldn't be feeling i.. I'd just .. you.. we would just fit in

Fiona: [yeah]

Lisa: [we don't] we wouldn't be taking this whole cultural [I've gotta]

Kerry: [mmm]

Lisa: have my swag and my cup of tea or whatever it is

Fiona: / Kerry: yeah

Lisa: or my VB

Kerry: yeah

Lisa: we I think Australians are fairly flexible like that (?)

Fiona: yeah

Kerry: yeah

Lisa: we're good travellers a.. apart from the beer swelling yobbos who do the tours

Kerry: yes

Lisa: erm but Australians are good travellers [??]

Fiona: [I] think 'cos we're like we have to be open-minded
[like]

Lisa: [yeah]

Fiona: 'cos we've got so many other people in our own country that when we go to other peoples' countries we kind of you know a bit more open to how we could differ from them

Lisa3.WAV

Kerry: what do you think you'd miss about Australia if you went overseas for a long time if you went
travell[ing]

Fiona: [the] clean air

Kerry: you've obviously [thinking back to somewhere you've been that didn't have]

Fiona: [the clean water .. back to India] clean air clean water =

Lisa: = yeah I get you know
it depends where you are

Kerry: yeah

Lisa: erm I'd miss people more than places though

Fiona: mm

Lisa: I've moved around Australia a bit so

Kerry: mm

Lisa: I'm kind of comfortable with doing that but you miss the people =

Kerry: = mm

Fiona: I'd miss the open-mi.. open-mindedness of Australia too I think because we're so plural s.. because there's so many different cultures that we're quite open to all sorts of things and I think like feminism here's quite progressive compared with a lot of countries .. like where there's so much diversity I think people are just more open-minded =

Lisa: = I think you'd miss that even if you moved to the country in Australia =

Fiona: = yeah yeah I'm sure [??????????]

Kerry: ['cos they haven't] heard of feminism yet that's the f-word

Lisa: yeah pretty much =

Fiona: = but like I mean I mean I've got a friend who is who's queer and she's gone to India and she's looking for a dyke bar and I'm like Suzanne you're not gonna find one @@@@ (all) I mean if there is if there is that sort of culture it's going to be so: [hidden]

Lisa: [underground] I think =

Fiona: = ah! And I'm sure there is that sort of culture but it's gonna be so: stigmatised

Lisa: [@@@@@]

Fiona: [and like and like like in Austr..]

Kerry: [difficult to find]

Fiona: well like like in Australia if you wanna be a Wikka or whatever that st.. you know that there's a some religion that's to do with goddesses and women and it's

Lisa: witchcraft [basically]

Fiona: [yeah it's] witchcraft and you know and like I've got I've got friends that are that identify as Wikka and you can do that in Australia you can be whatever wierdarse thing you wanna be

Kerry: well you could just read the Lonely Planet's Guide to Gay India I'm sure there is one

Fiona: @@@@ but I mean I mean in Australia like there's there .. almost anything you can imagine you can do um

Lisa: yeah =

Fiona: = I really and I'd really miss that [too]

Lisa: [and] y.. like living in a city I if I if you were asking me about Australia and I was only considering the environment that I live in I think it's fantastic I think we're tolerant I think we're pretty progressive with [women's]

Fiona: [mm]

Lisa: stuff I think you know there's a lot of stuff we could do better um as far as looking after our less privileged people =

Fiona: = yeah

Lisa: but in general I think it's [fantastic]

Fiona: [but even then] like we've got a welfare system at all which beats [you know]

Lisa: [yeah exactly]

Fiona: America and lots of other countries =

Lisa: = you can push me out into the er some of the suburbs and out into the country I think you you get quite a different

Fiona: yeah

Lisa: er you know there is definitely less you know I I think of my family in the country they are just not tolerant

Kerry: mm

Fiona: yeah I feel a bit I I get stared at for having short hair when I go out into like Ringwood and places [like that]

Lisa: [yeah you would]

Fiona: and it's I mean that's and Ringwood's not even that far out =

Lisa: = I can tell you what they'd say about you .. with short hair don't you be wearing flannelette shirts round [here]

Fiona: [yeah ye:ah] I actually went back to school which is in Camberwell and they were also asking me what it meant and I'm like it's it means that I like my hair short

Lisa: yeah @@@

Fiona: it means that I bought a a razor and I I cut my hair that's [it]

Lisa: [isn't] it isn't that a particularly odd comment =

Fiona: = [yeah]

Lisa: [what] does having short hair mean? well..

Fiona: you know if I dyed it red you know or black rather [than]

Lisa: [it's] actually interesting hair is quite
funny I'm I how old am I now thirty seven

Kerry: twenty seventeen [?????????]

Lisa: twenty seventeen that's right ??? erm er about .. er two and a half I dunno coming up for three years ago =

Fiona: = [yeah]

Lisa: [I] cut my hair very short and went and had it jet black with purple in it

Fiona: yeah

Lisa: I loved it .. er I was having a mid-life crisis I you know I actually had exactly the same haircut when I was about twenty though this time I neglected to have the shaved bits which were when my father didn't actually speak to me for .. ??? the reason I had that done when I was young anyhow er I digress but it was really weird here I am this big thirties chick with purple hair one everyone thought I was a lesbian and that's fine they can think whatever they like .. but all the young I people young people would talk to me on trains

Fiona: yeah

Lisa: it was really weird [I got this completely .. different reaction] from people (*getting annoyed with Fiona interrupting, see pace at which talks*)

Fiona: [everyone always comes up to me I don't know why it is people .. yeah]

Lisa: and for once it was nice people were actually talking to my hair you know they're talking to .. rather than my breasts so it was a it was a nice change

All: @@@@

Fiona: yeah (*I do this, say yeah to agree then say how it's relevant to me and tell my story*) people always come up to me like when I'm in the computer labs and someone really wants to print or something like they always seem to approach me I don't understand like I think 'cos I look slightly different that they think .. I dunno which which seems strange 'cos you'd think you'd approach the most like normal looking person =

Lisa: = yeah well I he.. it was great having purple hair I know you know

Fiona: but see [in in Australia you can you]

Lisa: [the reaction I got was] fantastic =

Fiona: = in Australia you can do it y.. y.. Australia you can do that like there's a whole communities of Goths you know that have the black and the purple and that's like

Lisa: yeah

Fiona: [considering th..]

Lisa: [I I] think I went through that stage when I was a bit younger too =

Fiona: = but d'you know what I mean
?????? there's an identifiable Goth community in Melbourne that's just like it's just so freaky [having them]

Lisa: [well
we've] got a lot of them we've got bloody a whole community of people who still love Elvis

Fiona: well [I that's it]

Lisa: [and get] together all the time =

Fiona: = or people who like go and see Mary Poppins and sing
along to it there's all these kinds of [little]

Lisa: [I went] to the Sound Of Music [?????]

Fiona: [did you?] oh I'd love to go to the
Sound Of Music yeah or like like I saw a group of punks the other day and I thought I thought punks
went out in the in the eighties like there were still people with the whole pink mohawks [and all this
sort of]

Lisa: [yeah they'd
be still there]

Kerry: [yeah there
are] a few of those around [still and it's]

Fiona: [yeah and it's] =

Lisa: = people don't even look now do they =

Fiona: = well no exactly
exactly =

Lisa: = and it's great

Kerry: [yeah]

Fiona: [and I] I mean I think that's part of I think that's a reflection of our multiculturalism I could be
wrong but I think that's [sort of]

Kerry: [mmm]

Fiona: an extension of that but we're [so used to seeing different people]

Kerry: [?????????] yeah]

Fiona: doing all sorts of weird things we don't even bat an eyelid any more

Kerry: yeah

Lisa: yeah

Kerry: that's right =

Lisa: = but .. I agree and if you're talking a.. you know I think there's a difference just between ??? I mean if you went to Queensland it's probably different =

Fiona: = yeah =

Lisa: = they they seem to be a little .. little different [up there]

Kerry: [yeah]

Fiona: yeah

Kerry: a few years behind maybe

Lisa: no but I .. no different to the country peo.. and it's not behind it's just that you know they're not .. they've never been confronted by as much stuff [so]

Fiona: [mm]

Lisa: if you can't see it you don't have to deal with it and they're [comfortable]

Kerry: [yeah] that's right yeah [yeah]

Lisa: [um] you know it'll be I'll be really I'm gonna ring my dad and ask him how the Iranians are

All: @@@@

Lisa: that'll be very int.. that'll be =

Kerry: = be prepared for the response =

Lisa: = for Loxton which is where he is you know it's a town of .. God probably three and a half thousand when you include the surrounding areas so it's not huge it's on the Murray .. um and that will be just such a a huge thing for the town =

Fiona: =
[yeah it will]

Lisa: [it will] it'll be like you know be a front newspaper n.. on the front on the [front of the newspaper] no question

Kerry: [really] God yeah right well one last question and I'll let you escape .. (*how many questions I have to ask in each conversation*) what's a good person what qualities? Ah you're you're lucky 'cos I've been asking people this first and the last person I did this to they said a word of advice when you do this taping don't ask that first ['cos it's a really awkward]

Fiona: [no I actually think it's good at the end]

Kerry: question it's much better at the end =

Fiona: = now that we've asked all these things about [being open]

Kerry: [yeah yeah]

Fiona: [???

Kerry: [but also] you're more comfortable I suppose just sharing your opinion and talking about [it]

Fiona: [yeah] =

Kerry: =
it's quite a hard [one to start with]

Lisa: [I kind of] I take it back wh.. I'm gonna make a really nice er make myself sound like a fabulous person I don't actually think that I'm and I'm tu.. going to turn it the other way I don't think there's bad people I think there's [people] who do bad things

Fiona: [yeah]

Lisa: but I don't think people are inherently bad I've got a fair bit of faith in human nature

Kerry: mm

Lisa: and I think most people are good whatever that means a.. and I think all it means is you know things like (1.0) respecting other people and wanting to do the right thing n you know [all that]

Fiona: [yeah]

Lisa: sort of stuff and I don't think people are bad I think they do bad things

Kerry: mm

Fiona: I don't want to add to that 'cos I'm a bad person @@@ no change that .. no I mean I like I think being a good person does entail not effe.. not impinging on other people's right to do whatever they want um not whatever they want but I dunno to sort of respect them respect what other people want to do and let them um sort of let them be

Lisa: it's a bit like the freedom of speech thing freedom of speech is fantastic but with it comes responsibi[lity as well]

Fiona: [yeah]

Kerry: right yeah

Lisa: and I think you know people have to take responsibility for themselves (*less high rising later in conversation as speakers seeking less approval?*) and their impact on other people and other things like the environment and stuff like that

Kerry:/Fiona: mmm

Lisa: and .. yeah

Kerry: yeah

Fiona: I value open-mindedness I really do

Kerry: mm

Fiona: it's something ?? and I do value honesty people who are honest like at a deep level like even if they don't always kind of l.. even if they do tell a white lie sometimes so long as they would tell the truth when they're put on the spot

Kerry: mm

Fiona: um [yeah]

Lisa: [and about] things that are [important]

Fiona: [important yeah]

L; and I guess you know that's my I'm putting my value judgements on what I think is important but

Kerry:/Fiona: mm yeah

Fiona: I think also it's important to have some empathy for other people which is part of the open-mindedness but it's also um

Kerry: it goes beyond that [a bit doesn't it]

Fiona: [it really does] yeah I think you've gotta see where other people are coming from and understand why they're different to you

Lisa: yeah

Fiona: um and understand what they need

Lisa: I think just that general you know not living your life just to look after you

Kerry:/Fiona: mm

Lisa: but really having a bit more of a social view of things you know

Kerry: mm

Fiona: yeah

Lisa: um and being aware of people who live up in those lovely flats

Kerry: yeah

Fiona: mm

Lisa: and stuff just you know

Kerry: and not just living in your own little world =

Lisa: = yeah and I I that is one thing I think Australians do tend to do a bit

Kerry: mm

Lisa: and if I could change one thing about Australia it would be to make us a bit more aware of [everyone]

Fiona: [yeah]

Lisa: rather than just ourselves

Kerry: mm yeah mm well on that note you lovely people