

Ms Georgie Smart  
*Radio Alpha*  
PO Box A24  
Brisbane QLD 4000

Dear Ms Smart

I am writing to complain about the misuse of the word 'schizophrenic' in your program on 14 October at around 10 AM. It was stated that a tennis player had a 'schizophrenic' lifestyle because he spends half of the year in Queensland and the other half in Miami.

While it may seem trivial, the misuse of 'schizophrenic' in this manner perpetuates the myth that the symptoms of the illness include a 'Jackyll-and-Hyde' type split personality. This is not the case. In fact, schizophrenia is a serious medical condition that affects the functioning of the brain, including confused thinking, delusions and hallucinations. The common 'split personality' misconception is highly distressing to the one in a hundred Australians who experience schizophrenia.

As someone who has had schizophrenia for over 20 years, and who regularly enjoys your program, I would appreciate it if you would not use the term this way in the future.

To find out more about schizophrenia, visit [www.sane.org](http://www.sane.org) - the website of SANE Australia, the mental health charity. SANE Australia offers information, advice and referral in regards to mental illness, and monitor stigma in the media through the StigmaWatch program

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Ron Costa