



Australian
Press Council™

Annual Report

2023-2024



**Australian
Press Council™**

Annual Report

2023-2024

ANNUAL REPORT NO 48
Year ending 30 June 2024

**Australian Press Council
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A person is shown from the chest up, wearing a white shirt, writing in a spiral-bound notebook with a pen. In the foreground, a silver mesh microphone is visible. The entire image has a green overlay.

The Australian Press Council is responsible for promoting high standards of media practice, community access to information of public interest, and freedom of expression through the media.

The Australian Press Council is also the principal body with responsibility for responding to complaints about Australian newspapers, magazines and associated digital outlets, and online only news publications.



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Neville Stevens A0 Chair

Foreword from the Chair

Our focus in FY2024 has been to continue to strengthen the core operations of the Australian Press Council in respect of complaints handling, while playing a greater role in the broader issues facing the media in this challenging environment.

The Australian Press Council continued its core work as the principal body with responsibility for setting and promoting high professional standards for publisher members and for considering, dealing with, and responding to complaints about Australian newspapers, magazines and associated and stand-alone online outlets. It met these objectives by:

- ensuring effective complaints handling
- developing and refining standards, guidelines and industry education
- advocating for press freedom, free speech and responsible journalism.

Ensuring effective complaints handling

The APC handles complaints about news or comment in the print and online publications of its publisher members. These members are responsible for publishing most Australian newspapers, as well as magazines and leading news websites.

The APC continued to respond to complaints about material in Australian newspapers, online-only publications and magazines in accordance with its processes.

Unsurprisingly, the APC received a significant number of complaints about the reporting on the War in Gaza, reflecting community sensitivities in how people, communities and governments are portrayed by the media.

Reporting on the Paris Olympics also resulted in a large number of complaints about how the media report on persons with diverse sexual orientation, gender identity and sex characteristics. In particular, how boxers in the female division were portrayed in relation to accuracy and prejudice.

Although many complainants may disagree with the reporting, it is important to recognise the difficult balance

between community concerns and the important public interest in allowing freedom of expression.

It is also equally as important that in an era of misinformation and disinformation, that people have an avenue to raise their concerns with the reporting of publisher members of the APC.

Where appropriate, the APC sought to achieve agreed remedies (including a correction, apology or some other form of action being taken). Where complaints could not be resolved in this manner, they were taken to adjudication.

In addition to the publishers being informed by the APC of complaints, Council uses the information obtained from complaints to inform the development of its Standards of Practice and Advisory Guidelines for editors and journalists.

In the reporting period, the APC received 1,022 complaints from 1,188 complainants. 11 complaints were considered by an Adjudication Panel in this period with a substantial percentage of these upheld or partially upheld.

Developing and refining standards, guidelines and industry education

The APC develops Standards of Practice which are applied when considering complaints and adjudications and encourages and supports initiatives by the print and digital media to address the causes for readers' complaints and concerns.

The APC's Standards of Practice are contained in its Statement of General Principles, Statement of Privacy Principles and Specific Standards of Practice.

The Standards of Practice are developed after consultation with the media industry and members of the broader community. They are subject to ongoing review in the light of experience, research and consultation.

The APC also develops Advisory Guidelines, informed by consultation, which may also be taken into account but are not binding.

During the reporting period, the Secretariat in conjunction with Council Working Groups completed its review of the Advisory Guideline "Reporting of 'race'" and commenced a review of the Advisory Guidelines "References to Religion and Ethnicity" and "Reporting on Family and Domestic Violence".

Advocating for press freedom, free speech and responsible journalism

The APC monitors political, legislative, commercial or other developments which may affect the financial position of media organisations and the dissemination of information of public interest which may consequently threaten the public's right to know.

The APC makes representations to government, public inquiries and other forums as appropriate on matters concerning freedom of speech and access to information and undertakes research and consultation on developments in public policy affecting freedom of speech and promoting public awareness of such issues.

The CEO & Executive Director's Report provides more detail regarding the representations made by the APC during FY2024.

Ensuring ongoing financial sustainability of the APC

Pleasingly there has been a significant improvement in the APC's financial position.

The APC's Constituent Funding Sub-Committee (CFSC) adopted a proposal in the previous reporting period to increase Constituent Body fees by 5% annually over three financial years (FY2023-24, FY2024-25, and FY2025-26). This staged recalibration is underway and is intended to assist with consolidating the APC's financial position over the medium term.

In the longer term, cost reductions continue to be pursued, with budgetary management remaining the primary means to enable financial sustainability.

Council and Adjudication Panel Member appointments, re-appointments and retirements/resignations

I am pleased to advise that a number of appointments and re-appointments occurred during FY2024 as below.

In addition, we continue to receive outstanding candidates for positions and look forward to announcing a number of new appointments in the near term.

COUNCIL

Appointments

Public Members

Lyn Maddock as Vice Chair

Independent Journalist Members

Helen Dalley

Re-appointments

Chair

Neville Stevens

Publisher Member

Hartley Higgins

Retirements/Resignations

Public Members

Jennifer Elliott
Dr Felicity-ann Lewis
Simone Carton
Dr Siddharth Vohra

Publisher Members

Hartley Higgins
Prof Matthew Ricketson

ADJUDICATION PANEL

Appointments

Public Adjudication Panel Members

Jennifer Elliott
Mohamed el Roubi

Industry Adjudication Panel Member

Bruce Dover

Re-appointments

Barry Wilson

Public Adjudication Panel Members

Melissa Seymour-Dearnness

Industry Adjudication Panel Members

Bob Osburn

Retirements

n/a

Resignation

Public Adjudication Panel Member

Vicki Williams

Neville Stevens AO
Chair



Yvette Lamont
CEO &
Executive Director

Report from the CEO & Executive Director

Significant progress has been made in financial management, streamlining and refining processes and practices and increasing the skills and capabilities of the APC.

It is pleasing to note that the APC has made significant progress with financial management and reducing complaints-handling timelines. Other APC objectives are also being vigorously pursued.

Key organisational enablers

During the reporting period, the APC continued to develop the following key organisational enablers:

- Manage relationships well with members and external stakeholders.
- Support and grow the membership base.
- Develop skills and capabilities.
- Refine the APC's governance structures.
- Ensure the APC's ongoing financial sustainability.

Manage relationships well with members and external stakeholders

The APC engages with government, public inquiries, and other forums on matters relating to freedom of speech, access to information, and public policy developments affecting these areas. The APC also conducts research and promotes public awareness of issues impacting freedom of speech.

The APC remains dedicated to promoting high standards of media practice and fostering an understanding of the objects and activities of the association, engaging both industry practitioners and the broader community.

During the reporting period, the APC engaged with a variety of key stakeholders, including government representatives.

Representations made by the APC included reiteration of the APC's concerns about the definition of the 'Professional Standards Test', which allows a news source, which is not a member of the APC, to meet the test if it is subject to internal editorial standards that are analogous to the APC's Standards of Practice. The APC highlighted

its concern that non-member publications were either falsely purporting to be subject to the APC's standards, or alternatively, adopting the APC's standards but without joining the APC or establishing an independent complaints-handling mechanism.

Other areas of APC involvement during the reporting period included:

- The Press Council was invited by the Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee to appear to give evidence at a public hearing to the Inquiry into the operation of Commonwealth Freedom of Information (FOI) laws (after the APC made a submission in the previous reporting period).

Following the public hearing, which the Executive Director attended, the Senate Committee completed its Report on the Inquiry, effectively finding that the FOI system was not currently fit for purpose, and made 15 recommendations (primarily aimed at improving the existing processes and structures supporting the FOI system).

The Committee further recommended that a review of the system be undertaken three years after the recommended reforms in its Report are enacted. In addition, the Attorney-General announced new appointments for a standalone FOI Commissioner, Privacy Commissioner, and Information Commissioner.

- The APC made a submission on the proposed Communications Legislation Amendment (Combating Misinformation and Disinformation) Bill 2023.

In summary, the APC's submission supported the proposal that professional news content will not be within the scope of the proposed Bill. Further, the APC welcomed the commitment in the guidance note to the Bill that the Australian Government does not seek to influence the editorialisation and reporting by the free press. The APC's submission focused on areas which

relate directly to the APC's purpose and responsibilities including the definitions of "news content" and "professional news content" and compliance with professional standards by organisations claiming to be covered by the professional news content exclusion.

- The Government released its Final Report on the Review of Secrecy Provisions.

The Attorney-General confirmed at the time of release that the Government will be strengthening protections for journalists by requiring ministerial consent for the prosecution of journalists for certain secrecy offences (a reform addressed by the APC's submission made in the previous reporting period which emphasised the importance of protecting journalists from prosecution in the course of their professional duties).

- The Government published its response to the Privacy Act Review Report (to which the APC made a submission in the previous reporting period).
- The Government announced that it will adopt all five recommendations made by Treasury in its Report reviewing the operation of the News Media and Digital Platforms Mandatory Bargaining Code (The Code). A key issue the Press Council continues to raise is the need to tighten the professional standards test.
- The Government published its response to the Report of the Attorney-General Department's Privacy Act Review. The Government 'agreed' or 'agreed in-principal' to progress 106 of the proposals, including proposals of significance to media organisations.

The APC was represented at roundtables convened by the Attorney-General's Department. The roundtables involved targeted engagement with media related entities on various proposals the Government had 'agreed' or 'agreed in-principal' to explore whether and how they could be implemented so as to proportionally balance privacy safeguards with potential other consequences and additional regulatory burden.

- The Minister for Communications announced a consultation period for the News Media Assistance Program (News MAP).

The Executive Director participated in a number of industry consultations (including with the Public Interest Journalism Initiative (PIJI) and the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts).

- Meta announced its decision to deprecate Facebook News in Australia and cease payments to Australian media companies for news content on its platform once current agreements cease. It was announced that Treasury and the ACCC would be advising Government on next steps.

The APC Chair and Executive Director met with representatives from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts and Treasury in Canberra. Matters discussed included the current operations of the Press Council and the issues managed in supporting the complaints-handling processes for the sector, issues around the News Media Bargaining Code, and current policy processes and developments within Government that impact the news media sector.

- The Secretariat completed a review and update to the APC's Advisory Guideline "Reporting of 'race'", which included holding working groups with interested parties, community members, and academics.
- The Secretariat commenced a review of the Advisory Guidelines "References to Religion and Ethnicity" and "Reporting on Family and Domestic Violence".

Support and grow the membership base

New members continue to join and be sought and initiatives to further support members continue to be explored.

Develop skills and capabilities

The APC welcomed new Council and Adjudication Panel Members (as set out in the Foreword from the Chair).

The APC continued its work of promoting high standards of media practice and an understanding of the objects and activities of the association by addressing practitioners within the industry and the broader community.

The APC Secretariat (and Council and Adjudication Panel Members) attended conferences, seminars and other activities to develop skills and capabilities in the changing media environment.

The Executive Director continued in her role as a Committee Member of the Law Council of Australia's Media and Communications Committee, membership of the Communications & Media Law Association and Women in Media, all of which provide opportunities to be informed and involved in current developments in the media industry.

Refine the APC's governance structures

Improvements have been made to governance procedures, efficiency and oversight to ensure the association is operating effectively with strong quality assurance processes in order to meet changing demands and changing patterns of production and dissemination of journalistic content.

Ensure the APC's ongoing financial sustainability

There has been a significant improvement in the APC's financial position.

As mentioned in the Chair's Report, the APC's Constituent Funding Sub-Committee (CFSC) adopted a proposal in

the previous reporting period for Constituent Body fees to increase by 5% each year over three financial years (FY2023-24, FY2024-25 and FY2025-26). This staged recalibration of Constituent Body fees will assist with the consolidation of the APC's financial position over the medium term.

In addition, cost reductions continue to be pursued, with budgetary management remaining the primary means to enable long term financial sustainability.

Expenditure is regularly reviewed to ensure appropriate cost management and use of resources. There is an increased application of digital technology, including retaining Zoom meetings post-COVID, wherever possible and practicable.

The APC's move to new premises in the last reporting period continues to provide further opportunities to enable greater efficiencies and actual (and potential) cost savings (including continuing significantly lower rental).

Please read on for more information about the APC's complaints-handling, finances and Adjudications for the 2023-2024 financial year.

Yvette Lamont
CEO & Executive Director

Complaints Handling

Constituent bodies enter a binding agreement to comply with the APC's Standards of Practice and its complaints process. Complaints about material they publish are submitted through the APC's website or by post.

The APC's complaints team reviews all complaints in detail, meets regularly to discuss them and makes recommendations to the Executive Director for further action. This may mean the APC seeks further information from the complainant or a response from the publication, contacts the subject of the article (where that person is not the complainant) or explores with the complainant and publication a possible resolution, such as a correction, an amendment, an apology or publication of a letter to the editor.

Some complaints can be eliminated at the outset as out-of-scope if they do not fall within the APC's remit; for example, complaints about television or radio content. Other complaints may be declined early in the process. If the complaint is not declined or resolved, it will be investigated further. Where a complainant has been identified or is directly affected by an article, they are regarded as a 'primary complainant' and have a role throughout the process.

A complainant who is not identified or directly affected is regarded as a 'secondary complainant' and usually ceases to have a direct role in the process after lodging the complaint. The issues considered would not necessarily include, or be strictly limited to, those which are raised explicitly by the complainant on the complaints form. They may include any possible breaches of the APC Standards of Practice.

If a complaint is to be considered further, a Provisional Summary of Issues document is used to clarify the issues. This provides a focus for the APC's assessment of whether an article complained about complies with the Standards of Practice. A complaint is discontinued if it is considered unlikely that a breach of the APC's Standards of

Practice has occurred, or for some other reason the complaint is inappropriate for further consideration. Sometimes a complainant will withdraw a complaint or cease to respond to communication from the APC about it, in which case it will be discontinued.

Complaints may also be dealt with by the issuing of a letter of advice to the publication and discontinuing the complaint, or by referring the complaint to an adjudication panel. Adjudication panels are made up of five to seven people. They are chaired by the Council's Chair, a Vice Chair, any Public Council Member appointed as an Adjudication "Panel Chair" or an independent, suitably qualified individual appointed by the Council (with sufficient skills and experience and a significant connection to the Council). They have equal numbers of public and industry members. Publisher Members of the Council do not take part in adjudication panels. The final adjudication is published by the publication and is published on the Council's website. The APC has no power to order compensation, fines or other financial sanctions.

Where a complaint is upheld, the adjudication may include a reprimand or censure, and may explicitly call for (but not require) apologies, retractions, corrections or other specified remedial action by the publisher. The adjudication may also call for specific measures to prevent recurrence of the type of breach in question. Of the 774 in-scope complaints received last financial year, 11 were considered by an adjudication panel. Eighty two percent of those were upheld or partially upheld.

COMPLAINANTS IN 2023 – 2024

1,188

“During the reporting period, the APC engaged with key stakeholders to advocate for press freedom, support responsible journalism, and contribute to discussions on media policy.

The APC also focused on strengthening relationships with both industry members and external partners.”

AUSTRALIAN PRESS COUNCIL CHAIR / NEVILLE STEVENS AO

COMPLAINTS

774

82%

COMPLAINTS UPHELD OR PARTIALLY
UPHELD BY THE ADJUDICATION PANEL

Publisher Members of the Council do not take part in adjudication panels. The final adjudication is published by the publication and is published on the APC's website.

FORMAL ADJUDICATIONS

11

6

STAFF WORKING AT THE
COUNCIL SECRETARIAT

Where a complaint is upheld, the adjudication may include a reprimand or censure, and may explicitly call for (but not require) apologies, retractions, corrections, or other specified remedial action by the publisher. The adjudication may also call for specific measures to prevent recurrence of the type of breach in question. Of the 871 in-scope complaints received last financial year, 11 were considered by an adjudication panel. Eighty two per cent of those were upheld or partially upheld.

Complaints

NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS AND COMPLAINANTS OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS					
	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20
New in-scope complaints received	871	1,065	694	797	1,076
Complainants making these complaints	1,188	1,512	1,554	1,476	1,858
Out-of-scope complaints received	151	232	278	341	230



Complaints Director, Paul Nangle

Complaints and Complainants

Complaints received

New in-scope
complaints received
during the year

871

Out-of-scope
complaints received
during the year

151

Complainants making
these complaints

1,188

Complaints closed

In-scope complaints

774

Complainants

1,161

Out-of-scope
complaints

223

Issues raised in
complaints

1,102

COMPLAINANTS

Individuals	886
Associations, companies and other non-government bodies	85
Government and other public bodies	10
Politicians, councillors, electoral candidates and political parties	4
Other	12
Total (in-scope and out-of-scope)	997

PUBLICATIONS

Newspapers and their digital platforms	
National	221
State	352
Regional and rural	65
Suburban	5
Magazines and their digital platforms	2
Online-only publications	331
Other	21
Total (in-scope and out-of-scope)	997

TYPE OF PLATFORM

Online-only	543
Online and social media	40
Print	98
Print and online	100
Print, online and social media	26
Social media	44
Unspecified	
Total (in-scope and out-of-scope)	997

OUTCOMES OF COMPLAINTS

Declined by the Council at initial stage	562
Discontinued	55
Discontinued with Letter of Advice	17
Withdrawn	5
Remedy without adjudication	91
Not pursued by complainant	33
Adjudication – complaint fully or partially upheld	9
Adjudication – not upheld	2
Out-of-scope	223
Total	997

REMEDIES WITHOUT ADJUDICATION

Apology (public or private)	1
Retraction, correction or clarification published	3
Material deleted entirely	16
Follow-up article published	0
Amendment to article	65
Other private action/explanation	0
Other published action	3
Total	91

ISSUES RAISED

Accuracy/misleading	325
Corrective action	32
Fairness and balance	215
Publication of a reply	15
Intrusion on privacy	99
Offence/prejudice/distress	399
Unfair or deceptive means	4
Conflict of interest	14
Total	1,102

Council Membership and Staff

The governing body of the APC is its Council.

The Council comprises:

- > The Independent Chair
- > Independent Vice Chair(s)
- > Public Members with no affiliation with a media organisation
- > Independent Journalist Members
- > Publisher Members nominated by publishers of newspapers, magazines and online media.

Council Members

During the 2023 – 2024 period, Lyn Maddock was appointed as Vice Chair and the Council welcomed new Independent Journalist Member – Helen Dalley.

Sub-Committees

The Council has an Administration and Finance Sub-Committee (AFSC), a Constituent Funding Sub-Committee (CFSC) and a Complaints Sub-Committee (known as the Adjudication Panel).

The AFSC oversees administration and finance for the APC. It comprises the Chair and at least two other Public Members, two Publisher Members and either one Independent Journalist Member or a Council Member nominated by the Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance (MEAA).

The CFSC determines the overall level of funding for the APC and the contributions to be made by each Constituent Body in accordance with the APC's constitution. It comprises the Chair, Vice Chair(s) and one nominee of each Constituent Body.

Adjudication Panel meetings are chaired by the Council's Chair, a Vice Chair, any Public Council Member appointed as an Adjudication "Panel Chair", or an independent, suitably qualified individual appointed by the Council (with sufficient skills and experience and a significant connection to the Council). Adjudication Panels comprise a majority of Council Members and an equal number of Public Panel Members and Industry Panel Members.

No Publisher Member sits on Adjudication Panels thereby ensuring the independence of Adjudication Panels.

Secretariat

The Secretariat had a total of five full time and one part time staff members during the period.

Council Members

at 30 June 2024



PUBLIC MEMBERS

Neville Stevens AO	Chair
Lyn Maddock	Vice Chair

Sally Basser
Simone Carton
Mohamed el-Roubi
Aram Hosie
Diana Nestorovska

INDEPENDENT JOURNALIST MEMBERS

Helen Dalley
Julie Flynn
Prof Peter Greste
Ian Macintosh
Meggie Palmer
Alan Sunderland

PUBLISHER MEMBERS

David Braithwaite	Nine Entertainment Co.
Lachlan Heywood	Daily Mail Australia
Hartley Higgins	Country Press Australia (CPA)
Erik Jensen	Schwartz Media (and Smaller Publisher Representative)
Glenn Stanaway	News Corp Australia

ADJUDICATION PANEL MEMBERS

Claire Adler
David Brill AM
Bruce Dover
Jennifer Elliott
Jacquiline Lefevre Suzanne Martin
Bob Osburn
Melissa Seymour Dearness
Sarah Tilbert
Barry Wilson

Publisher Members

2023 / 2024

News Corp Australia
Nine Entertainment Co. (Fairfax Media and nine.com.au)
Are Media Pty Limited (formerly Bauer Media Group)
Country Press Australia (CPA)
Dailymail.com Australia Pty Ltd

Small Publishers

Adelphi Printing Pty Ltd
Agenda Media Pty Ltd
AltMedia Pty Limited
At Large Media Pty Ltd
Australian Associated Press (AAP)
Australian Property Journal
Beaconwood Holdings Pty Ltd
Budsoar Pty Limited
Echo Publications Pty Ltd
Focal Attractions Pty Limited
Highlife Publishing Pty Ltd
Independent Australia
Indigenous Business News
Inside Story Publishing Pty Ltd
Local & Independent News Association (LINA)
Man of Many Pty Ltd
Mandaeen Media Network
Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance
Nascon Media Pty Ltd
National Indigenous Times Holdings Pty Ltd
Out Publications Pty Ltd
Private Media Pty Ltd
Pro Bono Australia Pty Ltd
Q News Pty Ltd
Radiowise Productions Pty Ltd
Region Group Pty Ltd
Schwartz Media (The Monthly Pty Ltd and The Saturday Paper Pty Ltd)
Solstice Media Limited
The New Daily Pty Ltd
The Urban Developer.com Pty Ltd
Western Sydney Publishing Group Pty Ltd
The Trustee for WorkDay Media Unit Trust

The individual titles published by each constituent body are available on the APC website <https://www.presscouncil.org.au>

Finances

As stated in its Constitution, the Australian Press Council Incorporated is "an incorporated association of organisations and persons established on 22 July 1976." It is funded by contributions made by its Constituent Bodies and receives no government funding.

Total member contributions for the financial year 2023-24 were \$1,688,128. A 5% increase to Constituent Body fees for the FY2023-FY2026 was approved by the Constituent Funding Sub-Committee (CFSC).

Funding in FY2024

Contributions are set by the CFSC after considering recommendations from Council. Contributions for the financial year 2023-24 were made by the following Constituent Bodies:

Up to 1% of core funding:

- Agenda Media Pty Ltd
- AltMedia Pty Limited
- At Large Media Pty Ltd
- Australian Property Journal
- Beaconwood Holdings Pty Ltd
(Resigned 28/01/2022. Fees payable to 28/02/2025)
- Budsoar Pty Limited
- Echo Publications Pty Ltd
- Focal Attractions Pty Limited
- Independent Australia
- Inside Story Publishing Pty Ltd
- Man of Many Pty Ltd
- Mandaean Media Network
- Nascon Media Pty Ltd
- National Indigenous Times Holdings Pty Ltd
- Out Publications Pty Ltd
- Pro Bono Australia Pty Ltd
- Radiowise Productions Pty Limited
- Region Group Pty Ltd
- Solstice Media Pty Ltd
- The Trustee for WorkDay Media Unit Trust

1%-10% of core funding:

- Are Media Pty Limited (formerly Bauer Media Group)
(Resigned 13/08/2021. Fees payable to 13/08/2024)
- Country Press Australia (CPA)
- Dailymail.com Australia Pty Ltd
- Highlife Publishing Pty Ltd
- Media Entertainment & Arts Alliance (MEAA)
(Resigned 21/04/2021. Fees payable to 21/04/2024)
- nine.com.au
- Private Media Pty Ltd
- Schwartz Media (The Monthly Pty Ltd and The Saturday Paper Pty Ltd)
- The New Daily Pty Ltd
- The Urban Developer.com Pty Ltd
(Resigned 06/02/2023. Fees payable to 06/02/2026)
- Western Sydney Publishing Group Pty Ltd

11%-30% of core funding:

- Fairfax Media

31%- 70% of core funding:

- News Corp Australia

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AUSTRALIAN PRESS COUNCIL INCORPORATED
As at 30 June 2024

ACCOUNT	30 June 2024	30 June 2023
	\$	\$
Assets		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	2,344,151	1,416,192
Trade and other receivables	97,058	1,083,433
Other assets	7,681	6,400
Total Current Assets	2,448,890	2,506,025
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, plant and equipment	23,083	1,416,192
Intangible assets	3,710	1,083,433
Right-of-use assets	687,837	6,400
Total Non-current Assets	714,630	2,506,025
TOTAL ASSETS	3,163,520	2,554,998
Liabilities		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	112,734	252,409
Lease liabilities	152,289	21,777
Deferred income	847,777	864,762
Employee benefits	100,933	134,299
Total Current Liabilities	1,213,733	1,273,247
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Lease liabilities	576,971	6,527
Employee benefits	24,127	39,867
Total Non-current Liabilities	601,098	46,394
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,814,831	1,319,641
NET ASSETS	1,348,689	1,235,357
Equity		
Retained Surplus	1,348,689	1,235,357
Total Equity	1,348,689	1,235,357

PROFIT AND LOSS

AUSTRALIAN PRESS COUNCIL INCORPORATED

For the year ended 30 June 2024

ACCOUNT	30 June 2024	30 June 2023
	\$	\$
Income		
Interest income	18,827	16,701
Member subscriptions	1,688,128	1,649,418
Copyright agency	36,880	1,071
Total Income	1,743,835	1,667,190
Less: Expenses		
Agents fees		18,000
Amortisation	3,696	9,585
Auditors remuneration	14,138	12,877
Bad debts expense	12,167	2,268
Bank charges	3,003	2,410
Consulting and professional fees	104,118	319,499
Depreciation - Right-of-use assets	100,712	163,887
Depreciation - Property, plant and equipment	10,040	3,339
Interest expense on lease liability	31,384	7,659
Insurance	44,322	26,494
IT Expenses	32,978	32,647
Lease rentals on operating lease	40,204	56,437
Leave pay	(4,686)	(7,867)
Long service leave	(15,740)	7,020
Other expenses	75,680	24,895
Meeting and Consultation	14,417	
Other employee costs	12,190	14,295
Office equipment	4,320	
Postage	557	328
Printing and stationery	26,999	10,392
Promotion	1,150	1,689
Salaries	918,034	871,290
Security costs	5,657	4,184
Software expenses	52,489	20,072
Staff training	995	622
Staff amenities	1,827	
Storage costs	6,662	5,281
Subscriptions	2,822	2,347
Sundry expenses	3,303	5,325
Superannuation contributions	95,462	90,805
Telephone and fax	6,764	30,757
Travel	21,958	25,055
Utilities	2,881	5,627
Total Expenses	1,630,503	1,767,219
Surplus (Deficit) before income tax	113,332	(100,029)

Adjudications

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Adjudication 1849: Upheld

The Press Council considered whether its Standards of Practice were breached by a video published by The Daily Telegraph on its social media platforms on 12 November 2023. The video was titled "Terrifying CCTV footage has emerged of the moment a Melbourne burger store exploded in flames that sparked pro-Palestinian protests exploded in flames".

[Read the full adjudication](#)

Adjudication 1848: Upheld

The Press Council considered whether its Standards of Practice were breached by an article published in the Herald Sun headed "Top cop claims Director of Public Prosecutions knocked back police requests to prosecute racists", 21 October 2023 online and "Police: DPP set racism high bar", 22 October 2023 in print.

[Read the full adjudication](#)

Adjudication 1846: Upheld

The Press Council considered whether its Standards of Practice were breached by a homepage item published by news.com.au on 15 November 2023 headed "DARK ISLAMIC THREAT: Terrifying one-word warning after store bomb". The homepage item included a sub-headline "The Palestinian-Australian owner of a popular Melbourne burger joint that was firebombed has revealed the drastic move he made after receiving a death threat". The homepage item included a CCTV image of the firebombing, an image of the firebombed store and an image of the store owner. The homepage item linked to an article headed "Owner of Melbourne's Burgertory chain reveals family living in 'safe house' after store firebombed, death threats".

[Read the full adjudication](#)

Adjudication 1845: Not Upheld

The Press Council considered whether its Standards of Practice were breached by an article published in The Australian on 13 June 2023, headed "'Gender affirming' care is destroying vulnerable kids" in print and "Why 'gender affirming' care is destroying our most vulnerable kids" online.

[Read the full adjudication](#)

Adjudication 1844: Not upheld

The Press Council considered a complaint from Townsville Hospital and Health Service (the hospital) concerning two articles published in print and online in The Courier Mail and the Sunday Mail.

The first article is headed "Hospital silent on shooting victim" in print and "Police shot dead Townsville man hours after hospital discharge" online on 23 April 2023. The second article is headed, "HOSPITAL DEATH TRAP / 'THEY WON'T HELP ME'" in print on 6 May 2023 and "'They won't help me': Teen's desperate post before suicide" online on 7 May 2023.

[Read the full adjudication](#)

Adjudication 1843: Upheld

The Press Council considered whether its Standards of Practice were breached by an article published by The Australian online on 28 March 2023, headed "Trans female kills 3 children, 3 staff at Nashville Covenant School" which linked to a homepage headline "Trans woman kills 3 children, 3 staff at US school".

[Read the full adjudication](#)

Adjudication 1842: Upheld

The Press Council considered a complaint from Curtis Pitt, Speaker of the Queensland Parliament concerning an article published by the Courier Mail, headed "Activists in court is a terrible look" in print and online on 1 February 2023.

[Read the full adjudication](#)

Adjudications

continued

Adjudication 1841: Upheld

The Press Council considered a complaint from Senator Gerard Rennick concerning an article published by The Australian online on 11 August 2022, headed "Anti-vax Liberal senator Gerard Rennick refused briefings from Greg Hunt".

[Read the full adjudication](#)

Adjudication 1840: Upheld

The Press Council considered a complaint from Louise Milligan concerning an article published in The Australian headed "Greatest enemy of truth is those who conspire to lie" in print and online on 8 June 2021.

[Read the full adjudication](#)

Adjudication 1839: Upheld

The Press Council considered whether its Standards of Practice were breached by an article published in the NT New and Cairns Post on 3 September 2022, headed "Woke world is wobbling" in print.

[Read the full adjudication](#)

Adjudication 1838: Upheld

The Press Council considered a complaint from Mayor Teresa Harding concerning an article published in the Ipswich Tribune headed "OIA won't investigate Harding" in print and online on 10 August 2022.

[Read the full adjudication](#)

Alternative Remedies

COMPLAINANT / SYDNEY MORNING HERALD

The complainant contacted the Press Council to express concern that the publication had not updated an article from October 2023 in relation to a serious criminal charge he faced at the time. The complainant said the publication also continued to publish information concerning his sexual orientation and his place of employment. The complainant sought to have the article removed or updated to record that he had been acquitted of the criminal charges. The complainant provided the Press Council with court documents in support of his complaint.

In response to the complaint, the publication amended the article in question to include an editor's note at the top of the article that stated the complainant was found "not guilty" of the relevant charges. In noting that the article was based on a report of open court proceedings and was accurate at the time of publication, the Council Secretariat considered the addition of a prominent editor's note at the top of the article sufficiently remedied the complaint.

COMPLAINANT / AUSTRALIAN FINANCIAL REVIEW

The complainant contacted the Press Council to express concern that the publication published critical commentary from an economist concerning Victoria's Suburban Rail Loop (SRL), without disclosing that the economist has a conflict of interest. The complainant said the economist is a local resident who lives close to a proposed site of a SRL stabling facility. The complainant also said the economist is a member of a Facebook group that was established to oppose the facility. The complainant said that this information ought to have been disclosed to readers.

In response to the complaint, the publication noted that belonging to the Facebook group did not necessarily raise a conflict of interest. However, it agreed to disclose to readers that the economist lives in an area that would be affected by the proposed SRL facility. The publication added the disclosure to the article that was the subject of the complaint and to an additional article written by the economist concerning the SRL. The Council Secretariat considered the action taken by the publication sufficiently remedied the matter.

COMPLAINANT / DAILY MAIL AUSTRALIA

The complainant contacted the Press Council to express concern with comments in relating to a child's death at a childcare centre. The complainant said comments in the article that the child had a preexisting health condition and had showed signs of being unwell upon arrival at the centre were inaccurate and distressing to the parents of the child.

In response to the complaint, the publication said it contacted Queensland Police and the Queensland Ambulance service prior to the publication of the article. The publication also said that while it was contacted by the Queensland Department of Education concerning the description of the facility, no concerns regarding accuracy were raised. However, in acknowledging the sensitive nature of the report, it agreed to remove the article to resolve the complaint. The Council Secretariat considered the action taken by the publication sufficiently remedied the matter.

COMPLAINANT / ADELAIDE ADVERTISER

The complainant, a school principal contacted the Press Council to express concern with the publication's use of photograph of her school in an article concerning a bomb threat. The complainant said that photograph in question was taken in 2021 for an alleged incident between two students. The complainant said the photograph has since been used on several occasions in conjunction with other stories within South Australia that relate to threats or violence in schools, but which did concern her school. The complainant said the inappropriate use of the photograph impacts the school's reputation in the local community.

In response to the complaint, the publication agreed to remove the photograph and to also remove it from its digital archive to ensure it could not be used in future reports. The Council Secretariat considered the action taken by the publication sufficiently remedied the matter.



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