



Australian  
Press Council™

# Annual Report

## 2024-2025



**Australian  
Press Council™**

# Annual Report

## 2024-2025

**ANNUAL REPORT NO 49**

Year ending 30 June 2025

**Australian Press Council  
Incorporated INC9888050**

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A person is shown from the chest up, wearing a light-colored shirt, writing in a spiral-bound notebook with a pen. In the foreground, a silver mesh microphone is visible. The entire scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent reddish-pink filter.

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 AO Chair

# Foreword from the Chair

Our focus in FY2025 has been to continue to strengthen the core operations of the Australian Press Council in respect of complaints handling, while upholding our broader objectives of promoting freedom of speech through responsible and independent print and digital media, and adherence to high journalistic and editorial standards.

It met these objectives by:

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

## Ensuring effective complaints handling

The APC continued to handle complaints in accordance with its processes and procedures regarding news or comment in the print and online publications of its publisher members. These members are responsible for publishing most Australian newspapers and leading news websites.

Where appropriate, the APC seeks to achieve agreed remedies (including a correction, apology or some other form of action being taken including the issue of a letter of advice) with many complaints being resolved without requiring adjudication.

Where a complaint proceeds to a formal adjudication, the publisher is required to publish the adjudication promptly and with due prominence.

It is pleasing to note that during the reporting period the APC continued to make significant progress in reducing complaints handling timelines.

In the period, the APC received 534 complaints from 1,369 complainants and four complaints were considered by an Adjudication Panel.

## Developing and refining standards, guidelines and industry education

The APC develops Standards of Practice which are applied when considering complaints and adjudications.

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 have been 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 when considering complaints, but are not binding.

During the reporting period, the Secretariat finalised the Advisory Guidelines: "Reporting of 'race'" and "References to Religion and Ethnicity" and commenced a review of the Advisory Guideline: "Family and Domestic Violence Reporting".

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.

## Advocating for press freedom, free speech and responsible journalism

The APC makes representations to Government, public inquiries and other forums as appropriate on matters concerning the media industry generally, including freedom of speech and access to information.

The APC keeps under review and, where appropriate, comments on political, legislative, commercial or other developments which may affect the dissemination of information of public interest and may consequently threaten the public's right to know.

The CEO & Executive Director's Report provides more detail regarding the representations made by the APC during FY2025.

## Ensuring ongoing financial sustainability of the APC

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

In a previous reporting period, the APC's Constituent Funding Sub-Committee adopted the proposal for Constituent Body fees to increase by 5% each year over three financial years (FY2023-2024, FY2024-2025 and FY2025-2026). This has assisted the financial sustainability of the APC over the medium term.

Simultaneously, cost reductions continue to be pursued in all aspects of the APC's operations.

## 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 FY2025 as below.

In addition, we have recently announced a new Chair (effective 1 December 2025).

## COUNCIL

### Appointments

#### Public Members

Kaaren Koomen  
Susan Nicholson

#### Industry Member

Peter Kennedy

### Re-appointments

#### Public Member

Mohamed el Roubi

#### Industry Members

Lachlan Heywood  
David Braithwaite  
Glenn Stanaway

### Retirements/Resignations

#### Public Members

Diana Nestorovska  
Aram Hosie (see Adjudication Panel Appointments)

## ADJUDICATION PANEL

### Appointments

#### Public Panel Member

Aram Hosie

#### Independent Journalist Panel Member

Simon Hayes

### Re-appointments

#### Industry Adjudication Panel Members

Bob Osburn  
Barry Wilson

### Retirement/Resignation

#### Public Panel Member

Melissa Seymour-Dearness

#### 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 Australian Press Council.

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 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.

The APC engages with Government, public inquiries, and other forums on matters relating to freedom of speech, access to information, and public policy developments.

The Secretariat and Council Members attended numerous events including media regulation/policy seminars, National Press Club of Australia Addresses, Women in Media events, Alliance for Journalists' Freedom 'Media Freedom' Summit, and the annual Andrew Olle Media Lecture.

In addition, I have continued in my role on the Law Council of Australia's Media and Communications Committee (a specialist committee with expertise in media and communications law that monitors and discusses current issues and contributes to the process of law reform in Australia), and membership of the Communications & Media Law Association and Women in Media.

## Advisory Guidelines: "Reporting of 'race'", "References to Religion and Ethnicity" and "Family and Domestic Violence Reporting"

The Secretariat completed its review of the Advisory Guidelines: "Reporting of 'race'" and "References to Religion and Ethnicity" and commenced a review of the Advisory Guideline: "Family and Domestic Violence Reporting."

## Other areas of APC involvement during the reporting period included:

- The **Joint Select Committee on Social Media and Australian Society** was established to inquire into and report on the influence and impacts of social media on Australian Society (with terms of reference including the decision by Meta to abandon arrangements under the News Media Bargaining Code; misinformation and disinformation; and other social media issues).

The Committee's Final Report noted numerous recommendations (some of which were considered in other Government processes such as the strengthened Online Safety Act and the second tranche of enhancements to the Privacy Act – as mentioned below).

The Committee did not, however, recommend that the Government designate Meta under the News Media Bargaining Code. The claim appeared to be that the Code is no longer fit for purpose.

- The **Online Safety Act Review Report** made 67 recommendations to significantly strengthen Australia's online safety laws, including changes to existing complaints schemes for those experiencing online harms, stronger penalties for non-compliance by online services, increased transparency requirements for online services, and changes to governance arrangements for the Office of the eSafety Commissioner.

In announcing the Report, the Communications Minister

reaffirmed that the Government would legislate a 'duty of care' to put the onus on platforms to keep users safe and help prevent online harms.

- The **Online Safety Amendment (Social Media Minimum Age) Bill 2024** was passed by Parliament, requiring age-restricted social media platforms to take reasonable steps to prevent Australians under 16 years old from having accounts (the minimum age obligation).

The eSafety Commissioner and the Information Commissioner were tasked with monitoring compliance with fines for breaches of up to \$49.5 million.

The minimum age obligation is effective 10 December 2025.

- The Government passed the **Privacy and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024** constituting the first tranche of amendments to strengthen privacy protections and commence the process of bringing the Privacy Act into the digital age.

Of particular relevance to the news media sector, the reforms included the introduction of a statutory tort for serious invasions of privacy (with an exemption for journalists where the invasion involves the collection, preparation for publication or publication of journalistic material).

- In the **Secrecy Provisions Review**, the Attorney General repealed parts of the national secrecy laws.

Journalists no longer face criminal prosecution for merely receiving some secret Government information (even without making it public) under the changes.

The Attorney General also agreed to repeal parts of the law that make it a criminal offence to publish any information stamped "protected", "secret", or "top secret", meaning actual or likely harm is determined by the content of a document, not just the label on it.

These reforms strengthen protections for journalists by ensuring they are not prosecuted simply for undertaking their professional duties.

The APC welcomed these reforms, consistent with its longstanding efforts in this area.

- In the **ACCC Digital Platforms Services Inquiry (DPSI)**, the ACCC announced it was commencing work on the tenth and Final Report of the DPSI and an issues paper was released.

The Government then announced that it would introduce new digital competition powers which would be generally along the lines of the ACCC's recommendations in its fifth Interim Report. Under the announced regime, online platforms would be designated by the Treasurer based on an ACCC

investigation and would be required to comply with broad (and service specific) obligations in areas such as self-preferencing, tying, switching, fair treatment of business users, and transparency.

The Government received the ACCC's tenth and Final Report and has announced that it will introduce a general prohibition on unfair trading practices, and its commitment to implement a new digital competition regime in response to the ACCC's recommendations.

- The **News Media Bargaining Code** and **News Bargaining Incentive**, where the Government is acting to address certain limitations in the News Media Bargaining Code (following Meta's decision to not renew commercial agreements with publishers) by establishing a News Bargaining Incentive to encourage digital platforms to enter into or renew commercial deals with news publishers.

The bargaining incentive includes a charge and an offset mechanism. Platforms that choose not to enter or renew commercial agreements with news publishers will pay the charge. Platforms with these agreements will, however, be able to offset their liability.

The incentive will apply to large digital platforms (with gross annual revenue of over \$250 million attributable to Australian markets exclusive of GST) operating significant social media or search services, irrespective of whether they carry news content.

The Government will consult stakeholders on the final design of the scheme. A public consultation paper had been expected to be released in early 2025, however at the time of writing this report it has not yet been released.

- The **News Media Assistance Program (News MAP)** was launched when the Government announced it was delivering on its commitment to bolster public interest journalism with \$15 million in urgent funding for regional and community news under the News Media Relief Program (NMRP). Grants were to eligible regional, independent suburban, multicultural and First Nations news publishers creating news content.

The Government announced further Government support for the news media sector (and community broadcasting) with a commitment of \$153.5 million over four years to implement the News MAP.

- The Senate referred the provisions of the **Criminal Code Amendment (Hate Crimes) Bill 2024** to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee. The Bill was then passed by Parliament.

The legislation amends the Criminal Code Act 1995 (the Criminal Code) to extend existing offences for urging force or violence and for displaying hate symbols, and to introduce new offences for threatening force or violence against targeted groups and their members (developed

in response to an increasing prevalence of hate speech calling for force or violence).

- The Government and the **Prime Minister's Office** in particular, was in 'exploratory mode' regarding reporting guidelines around violence against women. Assistance was requested and offered by the APC's CEO & Executive Director to the Government's policy team (noting however that Government involvement in the drafting of any guidelines relating to the news media sector is not considered appropriate).
- A **Senate Inquiry into "Missing and murdered First Nations women and children"** culminated in the Report by the Senate stemming from the Inquiry by the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee Inquiry into "Missing and murdered First Nations women and children" was released.

Relevantly, the Report provided a recommendation (Recommendation 9) that the APC consider and reflect on whether any amended or additional standards or advisory guidelines should be drafted in relation to reporting on cases of murdered and disappeared First Nations women and children.

The APC has been considering this recommendation in its current review of the Advisory Guideline: "Family and Domestic Violence Reporting" as mentioned above.

- The **Whistleblower Protection Authority Bill 2025** was introduced into the Senate and referred to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee for Inquiry and Report.

With the Federal Parliament being prorogued for the Federal election, the Bill lapsed.

The progress or otherwise of this Bill will continue to be monitored by the APC.

- The Government introduced the **Communications Legislation Amendment (Combatting Misinformation and Disinformation) Bill 2024** into Parliament.

The Bill was referred to the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee for Inquiry and Report. The APC made a submission to the Inquiry (focusing on the same issues of concern previously raised by the APC in a submission made when the earlier exposure draft was circulated) including that the Bill could inadvertently capture news sites due to their comments sections, despite the legislation exempting news organisations.

The Government determined that the Bill would not proceed (on the basis that there was no prospect of passing the legislation through the Senate) and was withdrawn.

- The APC continued to stress that the media related **Professional Standards Test** (including relating to

privacy and the News Media Bargaining Code) needs to be tightened as the current definition 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 are either falsely purporting to be subject to the APC's standards, or alternatively, adopting the APC's standards but without joining or establishing an independent complaints handling mechanism.

## Support and grow the membership base

New members are continuing to join and be sought. Initiatives to further support members continue to be explored.

## Develop skills and capabilities

The APC renewed and welcomed a number of Council and Adjudication Panel Members (as set out in the Foreword from the Chair).

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

As mentioned above, I also continued in my various external representative roles which provide and create opportunities for the Secretariat to be informed and involved in current developments in the media sector.

## 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

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

As mentioned in the Chair's Report, in a previous reporting period, the APC's Constituent Funding Sub-Committee adopted the proposal for Constituent Body fees to increase by 5% each year over three financial years (FY2023-2024, FY2024-2025 and FY2025-2026). This recalibration of Constituent Body fees has assisted with consolidation of the APC's financial position.

In the longer term, 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 has been an increased application of digital technology, including retaining Zoom meetings (post-COVID), wherever possible and practicable.

The move to new premises in the prior reporting period provided a further opportunity to continue to update a number of processes and procedures enabling greater efficiencies with actual (and potential) cost savings (including significantly lower rental). It is pleasing to report that the draft FY2025-2026 Budget Forecast indicates a small surplus.

Please read on for more information about the APC's complaints handling, finances and Adjudications for the 2024-2025 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 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 534 in-scope complaints received last financial year, four complaints were considered by an adjudication panel.

COMPLAINANTS IN 2024 – 2025

# 1,369

“Our focus in FY2025 has been to continue to strengthen the core operations of the Australian Press Council in respect of complaints handling, while upholding our broader objects of promoting freedom of speech through responsible and independent print and digital media, and adherence to high journalistic and editorial standards.”

AUSTRALIAN PRESS COUNCIL CHAIR / NEVILLE STEVENS AO

## COMPLAINTS

# 707

# 3%

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

# 4

# 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 534 in-scope complaints received last financial year, 4 were considered by an adjudication panel.

# Complaints

NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS AND COMPLAINANTS OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS					
	2024-25	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22	2020-21
New in-scope complaints received	534	871	1,065	694	797
Complainants making these complaints	1,369	1,188	1,512	1,554	1,476
Out-of-scope complaints received	173	151	232	278	341



Complaints Director, Paul Nangle

# Complaints and Complainants

2024-2025

**Complaints**  
Received in the year

In-scope complaints

**534**

Out-of-scope  
complaints

**173**

Complainants

**1,369**

**Complaints**  
Closed in the year

In-scope complaints

**548**

Out-of-scope  
complaints

**176**

Complainants

**629**

# Closed

## 2024-2025

### COMPLAINANTS

Individuals	640
Associations, companies and other non-government bodies	60
Government and other public bodies	5
Politicians, councillors, electoral candidates and political parties	4
Other	15
<b>Total (in-scope and out-of-scope)</b>	<b>724</b>

### TYPE OF PUBLICATION

National	196
State	272
Regional and rural	63
Suburban	3
Magazines and their digital platforms	1
Online-only publications	135
Other	54
<b>Total (in-scope and out-of-scope)</b>	<b>724</b>

### TYPE OF PLATFORM

Online-only	414
Online and social media	66
Print	90
Print and online	67
Print, online and social media	32
Print and social media	4
Social media	47
Unspecified	4
<b>Total (in-scope and out-of-scope)</b>	<b>724</b>

### OUTCOMES OF COMPLAINTS

Declined by the Council at initial stage	384
Discontinued	64
Discontinued with Letter of Advice	3
Withdrawn	0
Remedy without adjudication	63
Not pursued by complainant	30
<b>Adjudication – complaint fully or partially upheld</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Adjudication – not upheld</b>	<b>1</b>
Out-of-scope	176
<b>Total</b>	<b>724</b>

### REMEDIES WITHOUT ADJUDICATION

Apology (public or private)	2
Retraction, correction or clarification published	8
Material deleted entirely	6
Follow-up article published	0
Amendment to article	28
Other private action/explanation	17
Other published action	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>63</b>

### ISSUES RAISED

Accuracy/misleading	241
Corrective action	24
Fairness and balance	150
Publication of a reply	16
Intrusion on privacy	83
Offence/prejudice/distress	272
Unfair or deceptive means	7
Conflict of interest	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>801</b>

# 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 2024-2025 period, the Council welcomed three new Council Members,

Kaaren Koomen, Susan Nicholson and Peter Kennedy and farewelled one Council Member, Diana Nestorovska. Aram Hosie moved from Council Member to Adjudication Panel Member.

The Adjudication Panel welcomed two new Panel Members, Aram Hosie (as above) and Simon Hayes and farewelled Melissa Seymour-Dearnness.

## 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 and two Publisher Members and one Independent Journalist Member.

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 Independent Industry Panel Members.

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

## Secretariat

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

# Council Members

## at 30 June 2025



### **PUBLIC MEMBERS**

**Neville Stevens** Chair  
**Lyn Maddock** Vice Chair  
**Mohamed el-Roubi**  
**Sally Basser**  
**Kaaren Koomen**  
**Susan Nicholson**

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### **INDEPENDENT JOURNALIST MEMBERS**

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

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### **PUBLISHER MEMBERS**

**David Braithwaite** Nine Entertainment Co.  
**Glenn Stanaway** News Corp Australia  
**Lachlan Heywood** Daily Mail Australia  
**Erik Jensen** Schwartz Media  
(and Smaller Publishers' Representative)  
**Peter Kennedy** Country Press Australia

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### **ADJUDICATION PANEL MEMBERS**

#### **Public Members**

**Jennifer Elliott**  
**Claire Adler**  
**Sarah Tilbert**  
**Jacquilene Lefevre**  
**Suzanne Martin**  
**Aram Hosie**

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#### **Industry Members**

**Barry Wilson**  
**Bob Osburn**  
**David Brill**  
**Bruce Dover**  
**Simon Hayes**

# Publisher Members

## 2024-2025

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

Agenda Media Pty Ltd trading as Women's Agenda  
AltMedia Pty Limited  
At Large Media Pty Ltd  
Australian Associated Press (AAP)  
Beaconwood Holdings Pty Ltd  
Budsoar Pty Limited trading as Koori Mail  
Echo Publications Pty Ltd trading as The Byron Shire Echo  
Focal Attractions Pty Limited  
Green Street News Australia (formerly Australian Property Journal)  
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 & Arts Alliance (MEAA)  
Nascon Media Pty Ltd  
National Indigenous Times Holdings Pty Ltd  
Out Publications Pty Ltd  
Private Media Pty Ltd  
Pro Bono Australia Pty Ltd  
Radioinfo and Radio Today  
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  
The Trustee for WorkDay Media Unit Trust  
Western Sydney Publishing Group Pty Ltd

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

# Finances

## 2024-2025

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 2024-25 were \$1,688,971. A 5% increase to Constituent Body fees for FY2023-FY2026 was approved by the Constituent Funding Sub-Committee (CFSC)

### Funding in FY2025

Contributions are set by the CFSC after considering recommendations from Council. Contributions for the financial year 2024-25 were made by the following Constituent Bodies:

#### Up to 1% of core funding:

- Agenda Media Pty Ltd trading as Women's Agenda
- AltMedia Pty Limited
- At Large Media Pty Ltd
- Beaconwood Holdings Pty Ltd
- Budsoar Pty Limited trading as Koori Mail
- Country Press Australia (CPA)
- Echo Publications Pty Ltd trading as The Byron Shire Echo
- Focal Attractions Pty Limited
- Green Street News Australia (formerly Australian Property Journal)
- 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
- Nascon Media Pty Ltd
- National Indigenous Times Holdings Pty Ltd
- Out Publications Pty Ltd
- Private Media Pty Ltd
- Pro Bono Australia Pty Ltd
- Radioinfo and Radio Today
- 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
- The Trustee for WorkDay Media Unit Trust
- Western Sydney Publishing Group Pty Ltd

#### 1%- 10% of core funding:

- Dailymail.com Australia Pty Ltd
- nine.com.au

#### 11%-30% of core funding:

- Fairfax Media

#### 31%- 75% of core funding:

- News Corp Australia

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**AUSTRALIAN PRESS COUNCIL INCORPORATED**  
As at 30 June 2025

ACCOUNT	30 June 2025	30 June 2024
	\$	\$
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	2,427,033	2,344,151
Trade and other receivables	251,457	97,058
Other assets	22,333	7,681
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>2,700,823</b>	<b>2,448,890</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Property, plant and equipment	33,554	23,083
Intangible assets	1,938	3,710
Right-of-use assets	385,341	687,837
<b>Total Non-current Assets</b>	<b>420,833</b>	<b>714,630</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>3,121,656</b>	<b>3,163,520</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Trade and other payables	127,291	112,734
Lease liabilities	117,758	152,289
Deferred income	874,148	847,777
Provisions	78,666	100,933
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>1,197,863</b>	<b>1,213,733</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Lease liabilities	280,166	576,971
Provisions	50,000	24,127
<b>Total Non-current Liabilities</b>	<b>330,166</b>	<b>601,098</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>1,528,029</b>	<b>1,814,831</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>1,593,627</b>	<b>1,348,689</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Retained Surplus	1,593,627	1,348,689
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>1,593,627</b>	<b>1,348,689</b>

## PROFIT AND LOSS

### AUSTRALIAN PRESS COUNCIL INCORPORATED

For the year ended 30 June 2025

ACCOUNT	30 June 2025	30 June 2024
	\$	\$
<b>Income</b>		
Interest income	70,016	18,827
Member subscriptions	1,688,971	1,688,128
Copyright agency	2,141	36,880
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,761,128</b>	<b>1,743,835</b>
<b>Less: Expenses</b>		
Amortisation	1,772	3,696
Auditors remuneration	15,051	14,138
Bad debts expense	10,909	12,167
Bank charges	735	3,003
Consulting and professional fees	179,402	104,118
Depreciation - Right-of-use assets	85,744	100,712
Depreciation - Property, plant and equipment	8,039	10,040
Interest expense on lease liability	13,924	31,384
Insurance	28,878	44,322
IT Expenses	8,421	32,978
Lease rentals on operating lease	40,113	40,204
Leave pay	16,172	(4,686)
Long service leave	(12,566)	(15,740)
Other expenses	–	75,680
Meeting and Consultation	16,463	14,417
Other employee costs	79,164	12,190
Office equipment	–	4,320
Postage	540	557
Printing and stationery	9,911	26,999
Promotion	1,150	1,150
Salaries	824,269	918,034
Security costs	2,211	5,657
Software expenses	57,677	52,489
Staff training	691	995
Staff amenities	4,236	1,827
Storage costs	1,676	6,662
Subscriptions	1,699	2,822
Sundry expenses	2,110	3,303
Superannuation contributions	90,529	95,462
Telephone and fax	4,928	6,764
Travel	19,970	21,958
Utilities	2,372	2,881
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,516,190</b>	<b>1,630,503</b>
<b>Surplus (Deficit) before income tax</b>	<b>244,938</b>	<b>113,332</b>

# Adjudications

## for the year ended 30 June 2025

### 1 Adjudication 1852: Not upheld

The Press Council considered whether its Standards of Practice were breached by a series of front-page articles published on 2 December 2024 headed "DARK AGES" in The Advertiser and The Daily Telegraph, and "STEP ON THE GAS" in The Courier Mail and the Herald Sun and an online article headed "Australia's new Dark Ages: Gas offers energy crisis lifeline as summer blackout warnings are bought forward".

[Read the full adjudication](#)

### 2 Adjudication 1851: Upheld

The Press Council considered a complaint from Yoti Ltd concerning an article published by Crikey on 14 June 2024, headed "I tricked a selfie AI age-verification tool into letting a child 'buy' a knife" (Online).

[Read the full adjudication](#)

### 3 Adjudication 1850: Upheld

The Press Council considered whether its Standards of Practice were breached by the publication of a cartoon in the Herald Sun on 21 May 2024 captioned "AUSTRALIA'S FRONT DOOR".

[Read the full adjudication](#)

### 4 Adjudication 1847: Upheld

The Press Council considered whether its Standards of Practice were breached by an article published in The Advertiser headed "200M FOR TERRORISTS" / "Wong under fire for latest grant to Hamas-infiltrated UN group", 30 January 2024 in print.

[Read the full adjudication](#)

# Alternative Remedies

## COMPLAINANT / THE ADVERTISER

The complainant contacted the Press Council to express concern that the publication had published a photograph of a deceased Aboriginal family member in an article about road fatalities. The complainant said that, under her family's cultural lore, the names and images of deceased persons should not be published.

In response, the publication said it had obtained the photograph from a family member and believed it had permission to publish it. Nevertheless, in light of the issues raised by the complainant, the publication promptly removed the photograph.

## COMPLAINANT / THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD

The complainant contacted the Press Council to express concern that an article reporting on his court appearance, after he had been charged with possessing a prohibited drug and offensive behaviour, did not subsequently report the outcome of the matter. The complainant said that, although he was found guilty of both charges, no conviction was recorded.

In response, the publication added an editor's note to the top of the article stating that, although the complainant was found guilty of both charges, no conviction was recorded and he was placed on a good behaviour bond for both offences.

## COMPLAINANT / GEELONG ADVERTISER

The complainant contacted the Press Council to express concern that the publication had published a video showing her teenage daughter being assaulted in an unprovoked attack. The complainant said that publication of the video had added to her daughter's trauma.

In response, the publication said that the seriousness of the offence, together with the safety threats posed to children and the community, made publication of the video a matter of public interest. It said its intention was to prompt a proactive response and help prevent similar incidents, while providing a platform for concerned parents who felt that not enough was being done to address those threats. The publication also said it had extensively blurred the video to ensure that those depicted could not be identified. Following the complaint, it engaged directly with the complainant, applied additional blurring to the video, and undertook not to promote the video on its website or social media platforms.

## COMPLAINANT / DAILY MAIL AUSTRALIA

The complainant contacted the Press Council to express concern about the article's reference to the nine men being of mostly "Assyrian-Australian background", which, the complainant said, did not appear relevant to the crime with which they had been charged. The complainant said the reference to ethnicity was prejudicial.

In response, the publication said the article reported court proceedings and that the ethnicity of the men had been mentioned several times during those proceedings. It said the reference was not intended to cause offence and removed it from the article.

## COMPLAINANT / ADELAIDE ADVERTISER

The complainant, a school principal, contacted the Press Council to express concern about the publication's use of a photograph of her school in an article concerning a bomb threat. The complainant said the photograph had been taken in 2021 in relation to an alleged incident between two students. She said it had since been used on several occasions alongside unrelated stories from South Australia involving threats or violence in schools that did not concern her school. The complainant said the inappropriate use of the photograph had adversely affected the school's reputation in the local community.

In response, the publication agreed to remove the photograph and to remove it from its digital archive to ensure it could not be used in future reports.



**Australian  
Press Council™**

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