



Australian
Press Council™

Annual Report 2022-2023





Australian
Press Council™

Annual Report

2022-2023

ANNUAL REPORT NO 47
Year ending 30 June 2023

Australian Press Council
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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 FY2023 has been to strengthen the Australian Press Council from the core, while building foundations to create ongoing efficiencies and effectiveness.

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 and magazines as well as a growing number of online-only publications in accordance with its processes.

Where appropriate, the APC sought to achieve agreed remedies (including a correction, apology or some other form of action being taken). Many complaints were resolved without requiring adjudication.

Where a complaint cannot be resolved without a formal adjudication, the publisher is required to publish the adjudication promptly and with due prominence.

In the reporting period, there were 1,297 complaints in FY2023 from 1,512 complainants. Of the 1,297 complaints received, 16 were considered by an Adjudication Panel. A substantial percentage of those were 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 undertook work in relation to updating the Advisory Guideline on reporting of 'race'. Working Groups were also held.

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 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 FY2023 (which 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.

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 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 will assist with the consolidation of 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 FY2023 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

Simone Carton, Aram Hosie and Sally Bassar

Independent Journalist Members

Alan Sunderland, Ian Macintosh and Meggie Palmer

Re-appointments

Public Member

Lyn Maddock

Independent Journalist Members

Peter Greste and Julie Flynn

Industry Members

Erik Jensen and Matthew Ricketson

Retirements

Public Members

John Doyle, who served as a Public Member from 2013, stepped down after serving the maximum term of nine years and Suzanne Martin, who served as a Public Member from 2013, stepped down after serving the maximum term of nine years.

Ms Martin was then re-appointed as a Public Adjudication Panel Member.

ADJUDICATION PANEL

Appointments

Public Adjudication Panel Members

Clair Alder, Sarah Talbert, Vicki Williams and Jacqueline Lefevre

Industry Adjudication Panel Member

David Brill

Re-appointments

Public Adjudication Panel Members

Suzanne Martin, John Fleetwood, Julian Gardner and Melissa Seymour-Dearness

Industry Adjudication Panel Members

Bob Osburn and Barry Wilson

Retirements

Industry Adjudication Panel Members

Susan Skelly and Russell Robinson

Resignation

Public Adjudication Panel Member

Shenal Basnayake

Neville Stevens AO Chair



Yvette Lamont
CEO &
Executive Director

Report from the CEO & Executive Director

Significant progress has been made to streamline and refine the APC's processes and practices and increase the skills and capabilities of the Secretariat.

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

Key organisational enablers

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 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.

In the reporting period, the APC engaged with a number of key stakeholders (including key government representatives) as summarised below.

The Attorney-General, the Hon Mark Dreyfus KC MP hosted a Media Round Table at Parliament House to discuss Press Freedom Reforms and the Privacy Act Review to which the APC was invited and I attended.

A Round Table organised by Treasury as part of its review of the Digital Platforms Bargaining Code was attended. The APC addressed the Round Table on 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.

The APC reiterated its concerns about the 'Professional Standards Test' with Ms Pauline Sullivan, who was at the time the First Assistant Secretary of Online Safety, Media and Platforms (Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications).

The APC made submissions to the Attorney-General's Department in relation to its review of the Privacy Act 1988. Specifically, the APC endorsed the proposal that the journalism exemption, which is enshrined in the Privacy Act 1988, should remain and available to media organisations that are subject to privacy standards overseen by a recognised body (such as the APC).

The APC made submissions to the Attorney-General's Department in relation to the Review of Secrecy Provisions in Commonwealth law. The APC emphasised the importance of the public interest journalism defences and the clear public interest in protecting journalists from prosecution in the course of discharging their professional duties.

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 met with Nicky Bath, the CEO of LGBTIQ+ Health Australia. Ms Bath welcomed a continuing dialogue with the APC and expressed an interest in opportunities to work with the APC to increase knowledge and understanding of the Advisory Guideline on Reporting on persons with diverse sexual orientation, gender diversity, and sex characteristics.

The Secretariat undertook work in relation to updating the Advisory Guideline on reporting of 'race' with working groups being held with interested parties, members of the community and academics.

Support and grow the membership base

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

Develop skills and capabilities

The APC welcomed additional complaints officers (with interests in governance and policy) and a number of new Council and Adjudication Panel Members (as set out in the Chair's Report).

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

I continued in my 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.

In relation to Secondary Complainants who raise concerns about Facebook comments on a Masthead's Facebook page, in the interests of a rapid resolution, the complainant is now referred to the Masthead in the 'first instance' to resolve their concerns. Secondary Complainants are then provided with a pathway back to the APC if they have not been able to resolve their complaint with the publisher concerning a Facebook post. This is a departure from the APC's usual process of not requiring complainants to attempt to resolve their concerns with a Masthead before submitting a complaint to the APC.

To provide a safe working environment for its staff, and in line with most complaint handling organisations, the APC instigated a policy for managing unreasonable complainant conduct.

The policy is published in the complaints section of the [APC's website](#).

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 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 will assist with the consolidation of the APC's financial position over the medium term. Budgetary management remains 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.

Since the reporting period, the APC has moved to new premises. This has provided a further opportunity to update a number of processes and procedures enabling greater efficiencies and actual (and potential) cost savings (including significant lower rental). It is pleasing to report that the draft FY2025 Budget Forecast is in the proximity of break even.

Please read on for more information about the APC's complaints-handling, finances and Adjudications for the 2022-2023 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 1,065 in-scope complaints received last financial year, 16 were considered by an adjudication panel. Eighty one percent of those were upheld or partially upheld.

COMPLAINANTS IN 2022-2023

1,512

"Our focus in FY23 has been to strengthen the Australian Press Council from the core, while building foundations to create ongoing efficiencies and effectiveness."

AUSTRALIAN PRESS COUNCIL CHAIR / NEVILLE STEVENS AO

COMPLAINTS

1,297

FORMAL ADJUDICATIONS

16

81%

7

COMPLAINTS UPHELD OR PARTIALLY
UPHELD BY THE ADJUDICATION PANEL

STAFF WORKING AT THE
COUNCIL SECRETARIAT

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.

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 1,065 in-scope complaints received last financial year, 16 were considered by an adjudication panel. 81 per cent of those were upheld or partially upheld.

Complaints

NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS AND COMPLAINANTS OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS

	2022-23	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20	2018-19
New in-scope complaints received	1,065	694	797	1,076	758
Complainants making these complaints	1,512	1,554	1,476	1,858	2,004
Out-of-scope complaints received	232	278	341	230	183



Complaints Director, Paul Nangle

Complaints and Complainants

Complaints received

New in-scope
complaints received
during the year

1,065

Out-of-scope
complaints received
during the year

232

Complainants making
these complaints

1,512

Complaints closed

In-scope complaints

967

Complainants

1,670

Out-of-scope
complaints

239

Issues raised in
complaints

1,313

COMPLAINANTS

Individuals	989
Associations, companies and other non-government bodies	188
Government and other public bodies	6
Politicians, councillors, electoral candidates and political parties	8
Other	15
Total (in-scope and out-of-scope)	1,206

PUBLICATIONS

Newspapers and their digital platforms	
National	317
State	506
Regional and rural	56
Suburban	9
Magazines and their digital platforms	1
Online-only publications	317
Other	0
Total (in-scope and out-of-scope)	1,206

TYPE OF PLATFORM

Online-only	713
Online and social media	70
Print	157
Print and online	110
Print, online and social media	37
Social media	112
Unspecified	7
Total (in-scope and out-of-scope)	1,206

OUTCOMES OF COMPLAINTS

Declined by the Council at initial stage	703
Discontinued	75
Discontinued with Letter of Advice	17
Withdrawn	1
Remedy without adjudication	54
Not pursued by complainant	62
Adjudication – complaint fully or partially upheld	13
Adjudication – not upheld	3
Out-of-scope	278
Total	1,206

REMEDIES WITHOUT ADJUDICATION

Apology (public or private)	2
Retraction, correction or clarification published	5
Material deleted entirely	5
Follow-up article published	1
Amendment to article	31
Other private action/explanation	0
Other published action	4
Total	48

ISSUES RAISED

Accuracy/misleading	326
Corrective action	21
Fairness and balance	334
Publication of a reply	17
Intrusion on privacy	79
Offence/prejudice/distress	512
Unfair or deceptive means	8
Conflict of interest	16
Total	1,313

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
- > Constituent Members nominated by publishers of newspapers, magazines and online media, as well as by the principal union for employees in the media industry the Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance (MEAA)

Members

During the 2022 – 2023 period, the Council welcomed new Public Members – Simone Carton, Aram Hosie and Sally Basser and new Independent Journalist Members – Alan Sunderland, Ian Macintosh and Meggie Palmer.

Secretariat

The APC welcomed two new staff members to the complaints team.

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

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 finances for the APC. It comprises the Chair and at least two other Public Members, two Publisher Members and either one Independent Journalist Member or the 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 an Adjudication Panel thereby ensuring the independence of Adjudication Panels.

Council Members

at 30 June 2023



Australian
Press Council

Neville Stevens AO **Chair**
Jennifer Elliott **Vice Chair**

PUBLIC MEMBERS

Dr Felicity-ann Lewis
Lyn Maddock
Mohamed el-Roubi
Diana Nestorovska
Aram Hosie
Sally Basser

INDEPENDENT JOURNALIST MEMBERS

Prof Peter Greste
Julie Flynn
Alan Sunderland
Ian Macintosh
Meggie Palmer

INDUSTRY MEMBERS

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

ADJUDICATION PANEL MEMBERS

Jennifer Elliott
Lyn Maddock
Mohamed el-Roubi
Barry Wilson
Bob Osburn
Melissa Seymour Dearness
Claire Adler
David Brill AM
Sarah Tilbert
Vicki Williams
Jacquiline Lefevre
Suzanne Martin

Publisher Members

As at 30 June 2023,
the following Constituent Bodies
were publisher members
of the APC

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 Property Journal
Beaconwood Holdings Pty Ltd
Budsoar Pty Limited
Echo Publications Pty Ltd
Focal Attractions Pty Limited
Highlife Publishing Pty Ltd
Independent Australia
Inside Story Publishing Pty Ltd
Man of Many Pty Ltd
Mandaeen Media Network
Media Entertainment & Arts Alliance (MEAA)
National Indigenous Times Holdings Pty Ltd
Private Media Pty Ltd
Pro Bono Australia Pty Ltd
Radiowise Productions Pty Limited
Region Group Pty Ltd
Solstice 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
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 2022-23 were \$1,649,418.

A 5% annual increase to Constituent Body fees for the period FY2023-FY2026 was approved by the Constituent Funding Sub-Committee (CFSC).

Funding in FY2023

Contributions are set by the CFSC after considering recommendations from Council. Contributions for the financial year 2022-23 were made by the following Constituent Bodies:

Up to 1% of core funding:

- Adelphi Printing Pty Ltd
(Resigned 30/06/2020. Fees payable to 30/06/2023)
- 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
- Country Press Australia (CPA)
- Echo Publications Pty Ltd
- Focal Attractions Pty Limited
- Highlife Publishing Pty Ltd
- Independent Australia
- Inside Story Publishing Pty Ltd
- Man of Many Pty Ltd
- Mandaeen Media Network
- National Indigenous Times Holdings Pty Ltd
- Private Media Pty Ltd
- Pro Bono Australia Pty Ltd
- Radiowise Productions Pty Limited
- Region Group Pty Ltd
- Solstice 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
- 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)
- Dailymail.com Australia Pty Ltd
- Media Entertainment & Arts Alliance (MEAA)
(Resigned 21/04/2021. Fees payable to 21/04/2024)
- nine.com.au

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 2023

ACCOUNT	30 June 2023	30 June 2022
Assets	\$	\$
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,416,192	1,616,705
Trade and other receivables	1,083,433	930,993
Other assets	6,400	-
Total Current Assets	2,506,025	2,547,698
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, plant and equipment	9,235	7,538
Intangible assets	7,406	11,361
Right-of-use assets	32,332	196,219
Total Non-current Assets	48,973	215,118
TOTAL ASSETS	2,554,998	2,762,816
Liabilities		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	252,409	235,059
Lease liabilities	21,777	163,971
Deferred income	864,762	825,083
Employee benefits	134,299	63,486
Total Current Liabilities	1,273,247	1,287,599
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Lease liabilities	6,527	28,304
Employee benefits	39,867	111,527
Total Non-current Liabilities	46,394	139,831
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,319,641	1,427,430
NET ASSETS	1,235,357	1,335,386
Equity		
Retained Surplus	1,235,357	1,335,386
Total Equity	1,235,357	1,335,386

PROFIT AND LOSS

AUSTRALIAN PRESS COUNCIL INCORPORATED

For the year ended 30 June 2023

ACCOUNT	30 June 2023	30 June 2022
	\$	\$
Income		
Interest income	16,701	573
Member subscriptions	1,649,418	1,686,264
COVID-19 grants	-	33
Copyright agency	1,071	1,385
Total Income	1,667,190	1,688,255
Less: Expenses		
Accounting fees	-	14,125
Agents fees	18,000	-
Amortisation	9,585	12,281
Auditors remuneration	12,877	4,439
Bad debts expense	2,268	(2,219)
Bank charges	2,410	2,419
Consulting and professional fees	319,499	128,469
Depreciation - Right-of-use assets	163,887	163,887
Depreciation - Property, plant and equipment	3,339	11,061
Interest expense on lease liability	7,659	14,247
Insurance	26,494	38,558
IT Expenses	32,647	52,743
Lease rentals on operating lease	56,437	28,967
Leave pay	(7,867)	10,541
Long service leave	7,020	6,750
Meeting and Consultation	24,895	19,768
Other employee costs	14,295	34,413
Postage	328	350
Printing and stationery	10,392	11,885
Promotion	1,689	1,150
Salaries	871,290	868,146
Security costs	4,184	3,896
Software expenses	20,072	49,235
Staff training	622	-
Storage costs	5,281	5,579
Subscriptions	2,347	1,179
Sundry expenses	5,325	1,640
Superannuation contributions	90,805	82,574
Telephone and fax	30,757	30,387
Travel	25,055	14,202
Utilities	5,627	3,414
Total Expenses	1,767,219	1,614,086
(Deficit)/Surplus before income tax	(100,029)	74,169

Adjudications

for the year ended 30 June 2023

Adjudication 1837 : Upheld

07-Jun-2023 : The Daily Telegraph

The Press Council considered whether its Standards of Practice were breached by an article published by The Daily Telegraph online on 11 March 2020 headed "Rian Ross Toyer in court accused of killing Mhelody Polan Bruno".

[Read the full adjudication](#)

Adjudication 1836 : Not Upheld

01-Jun-2023 : The Daily Telegraph

The Press Council considered whether its Standards of Practice were breached by the publication of a cartoon in The Daily Telegraph in print on 16 November 2022 captioned "NOT THE QUESTION YOU WANT TO HEAR FROM AN ISIS BRIDE..."

[Read the full adjudication](#)

Adjudication 1835 : Upheld

06-Apr-2023 : Herald Sun

The Press Council considered whether its Standards of Practice were breached by an article published by the Herald Sun online on 19 November 2022, headed "Daniel Andrews' chief of staff met with election fixer".

[Read the full adjudication](#)

Adjudication 1834 : Upheld

05-Apr-2023 : Daily Mail Australia

The Press Council considered whether its Standards of Practice were breached by four articles published by Daily Mail Australia in August and September 2022 concerning gender affirming healthcare.

[Read the full adjudication](#)

Adjudication 1833 : Upheld

09-Feb-2023 : The Courier Mail

The Press Council considered whether its Standards of Practice were breached by an article published by the Courier Mail on 17 November 2021, headed "Only the parents can fix youth crime curse" in print and "Bill Leak's controversial cartoon still sadly relevant today" online.

[Read the full adjudication](#)

Adjudication 1832 : Upheld

07-Jan-2023 :

Senator Antic / The Advertiser and Sunday Mail

The Press Council considered a complaint from Senator Alexander Antic about two articles published in The Advertiser and Sunday Mail headed "SA Senator Alex Antic appeals to 'god-fearing conservatives' for Covid crusade" online on 21 January 2022 and "Flint farewell just another salvo in the culture wars" in print on 20 February 2022.

[Read the full adjudication](#)

Adjudication 1831 : Upheld

20-Oct-2022 : The Mercury

The Press Council considered a complaint about an article published in The Mercury headed "Interim FVO left standing as Adam Brooks and former partner head to mediation" online on 16 September 2021 and "Court bid on Brooks" in print on 17 September 2021.

[Read the full adjudication](#)

Adjudication 1830 : Upheld

24-Oct-2022 : Josh Bornstein / The Australian

The Press Council considered a complaint from Josh Bornstein concerning an article published by The Australian on 14 February 2022, headed "Josh Bornstein rekindles attack on 'bonk ban'" online, and "Bornstein rekindles attack on 'bonk ban'" in print on 15 February 2022.

[Read the full adjudication](#)

Adjudication 1829 : Not Upheld

25-Oct-2022 : The Daily Telegraph

The Press Council considered whether its Standards of Practice were breached by an article published in The Daily Telegraph headed "Global Warming Activist Dies from Local Heating" online on 25 April 2022.

[Read the full adjudication](#)

Adjudications

continued

Adjudication 1828 : Upheld

29-Oct-2022 : The Sydney Morning Herald

The Press Council considered whether its Standards of Practice were breached by an article published in The Sydney Morning Herald headed "Rebel starts spreading the news" in print and online on 11 June 2022.

[Read the full adjudication](#)

Adjudication 1827 : Upheld

06-Jan-2023 : Dr Christian Rowan / Brisbane Times, The Age, The Sydney Morning Herald

The Press Council considered a complaint from Dr Christian Rowan, Queensland State Member for Moggill, and Shadow Minister for Education and The Arts about two articles published in the Brisbane Times, The Age, and The Sydney Morning Herald. The articles were headed "'Fake unions': New associations ride jab mandate fears to get members" on 1 October 2021 and "Queensland LNP health spokeswoman is a member of 'anti-COVID vax union'" on 2 October 2021 online.

[Read the full adjudication](#)

Adjudication 1826 : Upheld

20-Dec-2022 : The Courier Mail

The Press Council considered whether its Standards of Practice were breached by an article published by The Courier Mail on 24 May 2021, headed "Close loophole that costs innocent lives" in print and headed "Qld DV crisis: Courts powerless to restrain offenders due to loophole" online.

[Read the full adjudication](#)

Adjudication 1824 : Upheld

27-Aug-2022 : CASPA / The Courier Mail

The Press Council considered a complaint from CASPA, a child welfare and care service provider, about an article published by The Courier Mail on 13 March 2021, headed "Tragic flood dad on kid sex charge" in print, and "Father who lost wife and two children charged with child sex offence" online.

[Read the full adjudication](#)

Adjudication 1823 : Not Upheld

18-Nov-2022 : The Daily Telegraph

The Press Council considered whether its Standards of Practice were breached by an article published in The Daily Telegraph in print on 14 May 2021 headed "FATHER OF TWO DISMEMBERED IN DRUG DEAL: You can kiss your penis 'goodbye'".

[Read the full adjudication](#)

Adjudication 1822 : Upheld

01-Jul-2022 : news.com.au

The Press Council considered whether its Standards of Practice were breached by articles published by news.com.au headed "Australia's most sadistic child killer applies for parole, sparking warning from original investigator" on 26 February 2021 and "Cop Reveals Creepy Love Letters Sent from Child Murderer's Prison Cell" on 27 February 2021.

[Read the full adjudication](#)

Adjudication 1821 : Upheld

11-Jul-2022 : The Daily Telegraph

The Press Council considered whether its Standards of Practice were breached by an article published in The Daily Telegraph headed "Transgender Sport Safety and Fairness Concerns Raised by Female Volleyball Players" online on 27 September 2021.

[Read the full adjudication](#)

Alternative Remedies

COMPLAINANT / DAILY MAIL AUSTRALIA

The complainant contacted the Press Council to express concern that the publication had quoted from a eulogy delivered at her husband's funeral. The complainant said that the eulogy was not intended for public distribution and was delivered at a time of immense grief. The complainant said the publication appeared to have obtained the information from the funeral parlour who had made the service available online for mourners to view due to Covid restrictions.

In response to the complaint, the publication said that it did not intend to cause offence and that the quotes it used from the eulogy were glowing of her husband. The publication also noted that the eulogy was publicly available and that there was a public interest in reporting on the circumstances concerning her husband's death and the funeral. Nonetheless, the publication agreed to resolve the complaint by removing the quotes. The Council Secretariat considered that the removal of quotes taken from the eulogy sufficiently remedied the complaint.

COMPLAINANT / THE AUSTRALIAN

The complainant contacted the Press Council to express concern with the accuracy of the publication's article regarding the outcome of her defamation claim. The complainant said it was inaccurate to report that she had lost her case given the matter was instead dismissed by the Court due to a procedural error and never proceeded to trial.

In response, the publication said it is clear from the article that the reason the proceedings were dismissed was the deficiencies in the complainant's Concerns Notice and not because the complainant successfully defended the claim. To resolve the matter the publication agreed to add an Editor's Note at the bottom of the article clarifying that the complainant lost the defamation proceedings on procedural grounds and the complainant had denied the substance of the comments that led to the defamation claim. The Council Secretariat considered the action taken by the publication sufficiently remedied the complaint.

COMPLAINANT/ CAIRNS POST

The complaint concerned the publication of a reader's "text to the editor" which was in response to an opinion article about providing additional support to "at risk families" who are raising their children. The complainant noted that one text conveyed racist imputations and which suggested such children could be "culled".

In response to the complaint, the publication noted that neither the article nor the text made any reference to indigenous children and no reader could reasonably read the text as offering genuine support for killing children. However, to resolve the complaint, the publication agreed to delete the comments from the digital edition of the publication. The Council Secretariat considered this action sufficiently remedied the complaint.

COMPLAINANT / NEWS.COM.AU

The complaint concerned the comments associated with a video regarding the death of an American entertainer. The complainant noted that the comments referred to the entertainer's method of suicide which did not comply with high journalistic standards.

In response, the publication said once the comments were brought to its attention, it took immediate steps to remove the material from its website. The Council Secretariat considered the action taken by the publication sufficiently remedied the complaint.



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