



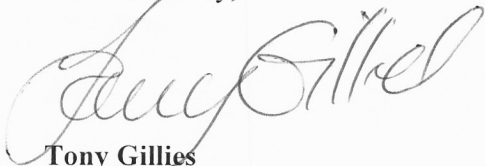
The Letter also stated that "*AAP chose not to accept the conditions of accreditation that have applied in previous years and therefore did not seek accreditation in 2009*". Again, this statement is incorrect and misleading.

AAP photographers have been accredited with the AFL for news and photographic coverage since 2003 and without question during Getty's role as the AFL's contract photographic agency to the end of 2006. However this arrangement changed with the most recent terms and conditions of accreditation which did not include rights for AAP to capture images of AFL matches. In light of this, it is implausible to assert that the "*AFL would have preferred that AAP continue the existing arrangements and to thereby ensure continuity of the supply of images to rural newspapers*". Despite your assertion to the contrary to the Australian Press Council, it is unfortunately entirely true to say that the AFL has "*decided not to accredit AAP photographers*" and that the AFL have "*disaccredited AAP*".

Even recently, AAP again approached the AFL on the basis of the representations contained in the Letter and requested that it be accredited on the basis of the conditions that have applied in previous years – namely that AAP could attend AFL matches and provide independent photographic coverage to its subscribers. This request was again denied.

As the national news wire agency, AAP has a fundamental mandate to preserve and protect its editorial integrity. Contrary to the assertions made in your letter, AAP was not granted the photographic accreditation that it sought and it was not able to accept the AFL's proposed "alternative" (namely that AAP use AFL images sourced from GSP) as that alternative runs entirely against the principal of freedom of the press.

Yours sincerely,



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