

Senate Inquiry into the Reporting of Sports News and the Emergence of Digital Media

Supplementary submission by West Australian Newspapers Ltd

In a submission to the Committee on April 6, 2009 WA Newspapers Ltd (WAN) stated additional regulation was not the preferred solution for the broad issue of restrictions on access and control applied by sporting organisations. However, WAN expressed concern there would be further deepening of the trend for sporting bodies to put their immediate commercial interests ahead of the public interest in the right to know from a diversity of sources. WAN stated that this meant there was a place for a mechanism to ensure bona fide media organisations had the access and freedoms needed to meet this public interest.

WAN is aware of the supplementary submission by Australian Associated Press Pty Ltd (AAP) to the Senate inquiry.

In light of WAN's initial statement that there was a place for a mechanism to ensure access and the evidence submitted to the Senate inquiry, WAN endorses, in principle, AAP's proposal for a mandatory industry code of practice under the Trade Practices Act as set out at paragraph 2.4 of AAP's supplementary submission.