

Submission from Robert Kennedy on the impact of the exercise of law enforcement and intelligence powers on the freedom of the press.

I am a journalism student at the University of Canberra. When I have completed my degree, I want to be able to work in a position where I can report on all matters that are in the public interest.

I want to be able to report on issues without the fear of percussion because I am simply doing my job. I will never lie or misrepresent the truth in any way as a reporter. I expect to be able to do my job and report the news without interference from any person, group or body.

When I am a journalist, I want to be able to seek the truth and report on it. I will balance the public's need to know while minimizing harm and remain within the laws of Australia. I will be accountable and transparent and supply ethical journalism that serves the public.

This is what I believe are the ethics of most journalists.

Australia is one of the freest countries in the world. It is our laws and being able to expose and report the truth that has made us free. I hope that freedom of the press is not hindered in any way for reporters to continue to do their jobs.

Australia needs laws that enshrine press freedoms so journalists can do their jobs without fear of persecution from government, business, religious or any other group.

Yours Sincerely,

Robert Kennedy