



## **MEDIA GUIDELINES**

1. These Guidelines deal with media matters in relation to the Royal Commission into Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence (the Commission).
2. The Commission may vary, replace or withdraw these Guidelines from time to time.
3. The Commission may, at any time, depart from these Guidelines if it considers it appropriate to do so.

## **OBJECTIVES**

4. The Commission recognises that the media has an important role to play in relation to the Commission's inquiry.
5. The Commission intends to work co-operatively with news media organisations to:
  - 5.1. communicate with the public and develop community understanding of the Commission's inquiry and of domestic, family and sexual violence more generally; and
  - 5.2. facilitate fair and accurate public reporting of the Commission's inquiry.
6. The Commission intends to release as much information about its inquiry as possible, subject to legal, privacy and safety considerations.

## **GENERAL**

7. The Commission will generally adopt the following approach to information:
  - 7.1. Formal written submissions may be published on the Commission's website. The Commission may determine not to publish all or part of any written submissions received.
  - 7.2. A list of witnesses for public hearings will be published on the Commission's website prior to the hearings.
  - 7.3. Public hearings will usually be live streamed, and transcripts of the hearings uploaded onto the Commission's website. The Commission may determine not to live stream or publish transcripts of all or part of a public hearing.
  - 7.4. Practice Guidelines dealing with other types of information received by the Commission will be made available on the website.

8. At all times, news media organisations and their representatives must comply with all:
  - 8.1. relevant legislative requirements;
  - 8.2. orders made by the Commissioner;
  - 8.3. Commission Practice Guidelines; and
  - 8.4. any reasonable requests by Commission staff.
9. The media has a responsibility to produce best practice reporting that does not cause harm.

#### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

10. During public hearings, news media organisations will be able to report on proceedings via a live stream available from the Commission's website.
11. Media may not, without prior approval of the Media and Communications Manager:
  - 11.1. Record, rebroadcast or share any part of a public hearing; or
  - 11.2. photograph or film the Commissioner, Commission members of staff, witnesses or members of the public.

#### **LEGISLATIVE RESTRICTIONS**

12. Various legislation prohibits, or imposes limitations on, the publishing of certain types of information which may potentially be received by the Commission.
13. Such legislation includes (without limitation):
  - 13.1. section 162 and 163 of the *Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017* (SA);
  - 13.2. sections 13 and 63C of the *Young Offenders Act 1993* (SA)
  - 13.3. sections 69A and 71A of the *Evidence Act 1929* (SA); and
  - 13.4. Part XIA, Division 2 of the *Family Law Act 1975* (Cth).
14. The onus is on news media organisations and their representatives to determine if there are any applicable restrictions on publication, and to comply with all such requirements.

#### **EXCLUSION AND NON-PUBLICATION ORDERS**

15. At all times, any access to information, evidence or documents is subject to the Commissioner exercising powers under s16A of the *Royal Commissions Act 1917*.
16. The onus is on news media organisations and their representatives to determine whether any such orders exist and, if so, to comply with them.

#### **MEDIA CONTACT**

All media contact with the Commission, including requests for comment, should in the first instance be directed to Jenny Turner, Media and Communications Manager via [RoyalCommissionDFSV@sa.gov.au](mailto:RoyalCommissionDFSV@sa.gov.au)