

AUSTRALIA'S RIGHT TO KNOW

Freedom of Speech Conference

Tuesday, March 24, 2009
Sofitel Sydney Wentworth, Sydney

- 8.30am Registration**
Refreshments served from 8.00am
Please register no later than 8.45am
- 9.00am Introduction**
Host **Helen Dalley**, *Sky News*
- 9.05am Australia's Right to Know and Welcome**
John Hartigan, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, *News Limited*
- 9.10am Introduction**
Mark Scott, Managing Director, *ABC*
- 9.25am Keynote: Let truth and falsehood grapple**
The Hon. Justice Ron Sackville AO, Supreme Court

Justice Sackville discusses the ideological underpinnings of the Australian constitutional concept of free speech, the competing values that decision-makers must consider and the need for the media to be conscious of their role in encouraging limitations on free speech.
- 10.00am State of the Nation: an update on freedom of speech**
Chris Warren, Federal Secretary,
Media Arts and Entertainment Alliance
The free speech arena has been busy with developments, from police raids on newsrooms to proposals for new laws to bring us in line with other democracies. Chris Warren gives an overview.
- 10.30am Morning Tea**
- 11.00am Open and Transparent Government - the Way Forward**
Senator John Faulkner, Special Minister of State, Cabinet Secretary and Vice-President of the Executive Council
When it came to power in November 2007, the incoming Rudd government promised to make Government more transparent and accountable. Senator John Faulkner outlines the changes we can expect and what this will mean for open government, democracy, and journalists.

11.30am **Debate: How much should governments tell us - and do we have a right to more?**
What are the benefits - and pitfalls - of more open government, and is Australia on the right track?

Moderated by **Tony Jones** of *ABC's Lateline*, Q&A-style

Panel:

Lynelle Briggs, Australian Public Service Commissioner

Arthur Sinodinos AO, Regional General Manager, Business and Private Banking, NAB. Previously Chief of Staff to former Prime Minister John Howard

Paul Kelly, Editor-at-Large, *The Australian*

Senator the Hon George Brandis SC, Shadow Attorney-General

Mark Dreyfus, QC, MP, Chair of the House of Representatives Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee

Michael McKinnon, Freedom of Information Editor, *Seven Network*

Matthew Moore, Freedom of Information Editor, *Sydney Morning Herald*

(Including audience comments and questions)

1.00pm **Lunch**

2.00pm **What if you had sex in the city? Private acts / public places**
Robert Todd, Partner, Blake Dawson

If you think you've got privacy, think again. The Facebook world is challenging traditional concepts of what is public and what is private. Media lawyer Robert Todd takes a provocative look at the conflicts this presents, and examines the likely impact of a proposed new law to give greater protection to privacy.

2.45pm **Debate: Private lives versus public domain**

Where should the media draw the line when it comes to respecting the privacy of people in the news?

Moderated by **Helen Dalley** of *Sky News*

Panel:

Robert Todd, Partner, Blake Dawson

Gail Hambly, Group General Counsel and Company Secretary, *Fairfax Media Group*

Peter Meakin, Director of News & Current Affairs, *Seven Network*

David Penberthy, former editor, *The Daily Telegraph*

Nigel Waters, Board Member, Australian Privacy Foundation

(Another panellist to be confirmed)

- 3.45pm** **Afternoon tea**
- 4.15pm** **Insider or outsider? The human face of whistleblowing**
Caroline Overington, *The Australian*
- Award-winning journalist Caroline Overington looks at the risks insiders face when they stand up to blow the whistle on maladministration, corruption or life-threatening situations.
- 4.35pm** **Debate:**
Going public: Do whistleblowers and journalists have enough protection?
A new report to the government proposes a comprehensive overhaul of our whistleblower laws, but does it go far enough?
- Moderated by **Helen Dalley** of *Sky News*
- Panel:
Mark Dreyfus QC, MP, Chair of the House of Representatives Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
Barry O’Farrell, MP, NSW Leader of the Opposition
Laurie Oakes, Political Commentator, *Nine Network*
Paul Whittaker, Editor, *The Australian*
Professor AJ Brown, *Griffith University*
- 5.20pm** **Overview of the day**
Paul Kelly, Editor-at-Large, *The Australian*
- 5.30pm** **Close**