



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

To all Members of the Federal Parliamentary Press Gallery

As preparations are underway for the opening of Parliament on 28 September, it is timely to remind all Press Gallery members of their responsibilities under the *Guidelines for Filming and Photography and General Media Rules in Parliament House and its Precincts* <http://www.aph.gov.au/visitors/FilmPhotoGuidelines.pdf>.

Since the winter sittings of the Parliament in June, there have been widespread breaches of the *Guidelines*, particularly in relation to the private areas of Parliament House, where media activity is not permitted without explicit approval of the Presiding Officers. The standard of behaviour of some Press Gallery members has fallen far below the professional standards required. The worst examples of such behaviour are:

- uninvited photographing, filming and interviewing of parliamentarians adjacent to Aussie's Shop; and
- uninvited following and physical pursuit of parliamentarians in corridors, lifts, stairwells and carparks.

Not only has recent behaviour by some media personnel been in breach of the *Guidelines*, it has been discourteous, invasive of privacy, and at times it has been dangerous. In addition to instances of security staff being jostled and hit by media equipment, there has been a close encounter between media personnel and a motor vehicle in the parliamentary precincts.

Press Gallery members should be aware that in addition to their own responsibilities under the *Guidelines*, their employing organisations have, as a lease condition, undertaken that all their respective employees will observe conditions of entry to Parliament House, including the *Guidelines*.

In particular, we again draw your attention to section 5 in the *Guidelines*:

General guidelines for Press Gallery members

Areas "off limits" to the Press

- (a) Members of the Press Gallery may not linger in the corridors in the vicinity of the Cabinet Room, other Ministerial Wing corridors or corridors in the vicinity of party rooms or individual Senators' and Members' suites. In

these areas, members of the Press Gallery may not seek to engage Senators or Members in conversation. As a general rule, members of the Press Gallery wishing to speak with a Senator or Member should make an appointment by telephone.

(b) Filming, photography and sound recording is not permitted in the Mural Hall, the Members' Hall or any other private access area in the central body of the building without the explicit approval of both Presiding Officers.

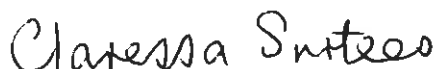
(c) Filming, photography and sound recording are not permitted in any corridor, except the corridor of the Press Gallery itself, without explicit approval from the relevant Presiding Officer. It is not permissible for interviews of any kind to be conducted in corridors or other private circulation areas of the building without explicit approval from the relevant Presiding Officer.

(d) Members of the Press Gallery are not permitted to enter the Members' and Guests' Dining Room on sitting days (unless invited to do so by a Senator or Member, and not for filming/photography/recording purposes).

(e) Filming, photography and sound recording is not permitted within the Members of Parliament carparks. Journalists, photographers and camera crews must not impede the access of Senators, Members or others to any of the entrances of Parliament House. They must comply with the directions of security staff at the entrances.

(f) Breaches of the guidelines will be determined by the Presiding Officers on a case by case basis.

We encourage you to read and comply with the *Guidelines*. If breaches continue to occur, security staff will be asked to remove offending media representatives and we will recommend to the Presiding Officers that their access to Parliament House be suspended, in accordance with the *Guidelines*.



Claressa Surtees
Serjeant-at-Arms



Brien Hallett
Usher of the Black Rod

23 September 2010