



MEAA Journalist Code of Ethics - How to Complain About A Possible Breach of the Code

What Do You Do?

This page sets out how you can complain if you believe a MEAA journalist member has acted contrary to MEAA's Journalist Code of Ethics.

NB. MEAA can only investigate ethical breaches alleged against its members; MEAA cannot investigate journalists who are not MEAA members.

If you believe a journalist has breached the MEAA Journalist Code of Ethics in any way, you should lodge a written complaint stating:

- the name of the journalist;
- the action that you believe is unethical;
- the clause or clauses of the Code that you believe have been breached.

Once MEAA receives your letter, and the relevant journalist is a MEAA member, your complaint will be referred to the chair of the National Ethics Panel. The National Ethics Panel is made up of experienced journalists and lay people (non-journalists who are not MEAA members) who are elected to the Committee every two years by members of the MEAA Media section. The National Ethics Panel may establish a committee to meet to consider your complaint. The committee has several options available to it including:

- dismiss the complaint without hearing further evidence;
- uphold the complaint without hearing further evidence;
- ask you to provide further evidence in writing;
- hold hearings on the complaint.

If the committee asks you to appear it is also required to ask the journalist you have complained against to appear. The committee does not operate under law but does follow the rules of natural justice. In the event the complaint goes to a hearing the parties are not entitled to legal representation. If the committee finds the complaint proven it is empowered to impose a range of penalties including:

- censure or rebuke the journalist;
- fine the journalist up to \$1000 for each offence;
- expel the journalist from membership of MEAA.

Information regarding complaints about journalists is published and distributed to journalist members each year.

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WEB

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MEAA.org

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Appeals

In the event you or the journalist is dissatisfied with the outcome of the investigation of a complaint you have a right to appeal within 28 days to the Appeals Committee. These appeals committees are made up of three senior journalists elected every four years. If you or the journalist is still dissatisfied, an appeal may be lodged within 28 days to the National Appeals Committee made up of five senior journalists appointed nationally.

Where To Send Your Complaint About A Breach Of MEAA's Journalist Code Of Ethics

CEO
Media, Entertainment & Arts Alliance (MEAA)
PO Box 723
STRAWBERRY HILLS NSW 2012
Ph: 1300 656512 Fax: 1300 730 543
Email: mail@meaa.org

Other Outlets for Complaints

There are several bodies that receive complaints regarding the media. You may consider contacting them.

Commercial Radio Australia

10/82 Pacific Highway
St Leonards NSW 2065
Ph: 02 9906 5944 Fax: 02 9906 5128

Free TV Australia

44 Avenue Road
Mosman NSW 2088
Ph: 02 9960 7100 Fax: 02 9969 3520
Email: contact@freetvaust.com.au

Australian Press Council

149 Castlereagh Street
Sydney NSW 2000
Ph: 02 9261 1930 Fax: 02 9267 6826

Australian Communications and Media Authority

PO Box 78
Belconnen ACT 2616
Ph: 02 6219 5555 Fax: 02 6219 5200