



Petition to Yvette D'Ath

Queensland is the only state or territory left which doesn't give legal protection to journalists for refusing to name their sources.

A Queensland journalist faces further court action for protecting a confidential source right now.

The protection of sources is a fundamental responsibility for ethical journalism.

Without this protection, whistleblowers and other sources would be more reluctant to provide to journalists information which is critical for the public's right to know, to shine a light on injustices and to hold governments and powerful interests to account. Consequently, our democracy would be diminished.

'Shield laws' allow a journalist to claim legal privilege in order to protect a confidential source. This privilege may be waived if a judicial officer is satisfied that it is in the public interest to do so.

Every other state and territory, and the Commonwealth, has enacted shield laws, but successive Queensland governments from both sides of politics have refused to do so.

The Queensland government has acted correctly by withdrawing proposed legislation that would have further restricted press freedom by jailing or fining journalists for reporting on complaints or allegations made to the corruption watchdog during election periods.

But the Palaszczuk Government needs to show it is fully committed to the public's right to know by protecting journalists who refuse to reveal sources.

Signed:

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