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Conversation: AICV: URGENT Sedition Action

Subject: AICV: URGENT Sedition Action

Arts Industry Council (Victoria)

- the independent voice for the arts

(Please ignore the previous version)

Act Now or forever hold your piece

Join the call to overturn Sedition Provisions

The Australian Law Reform Commission's recommendations to remove the ill-conceived Sedition Provisions from the Anti-terrorism Act 2005 have been effectively dismissed by the Attorney General, Phillip Ruddock.

As they stand, the sedition provisions seriously erode Freedom of Expression and contribute to a climate of fear and censorship. AIC(V) took a strong stand opposing those provisions in 2005 and welcomed the review conducted by the Law Reform Commission. It will be a disgrace if their report, and the articulated concerns of the arts industry, are to be ignored.

A meeting of arts organisations last week unanimously agreed to renew the campaign and have prepared a media release for arts and media organisations to sign.

Two options for action

1. Arts & media organisations: URGENT SIGN-UP

Please take a look at the proposed press release to be sent to the media tomorrow (Wednesday). As with the early stages of our campaign, it is essential that all arts and media organisations and companies put their names to the release to give it maximum impact.

The media release is available on line at

<http://ozsedition.blogspot.com/> where there is also information about how your organisation can put their name to the release. If you are an individual wishing to support the release, please contact your company or representative body to encourage them to put their name to this statement.

2. Contact Federal Members of Parliament

Please send an email or fax to as many Liberal and National Party MPs as you can, particularly Victorian Senators, even one or two if that is all the time you have. (Faxes are better).

The email addresses and fax numbers are at:

Senators: <http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/senators/homepages/si-party.htm>

House of Representatives: <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/members/mi-party.asp>

List of Victorian MHR: <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/members/mi-state.asp>

MESSAGE: The following points may help in drafting your response:

1. The Sedition Provisions in the Anti-Terror Act 2005 represent the most dangerous threat to freedom of expression in this country's history, and is an intolerable curtailment of a fundamental human right.
2. Demand that the Attorney General submit to the overwhelming opinion of the Senate Inquiry, the Australian Law Reform Commission, the Law Institute of Victoria, lawyers and legal experts across the country and abandon these dangerous sedition provisions which represent a real and palpable threat to the democracy that sustains our way of life.

The Victorian Arts Community has made a significant impact on this campaign with arts and freedom of expression being quoted as key to opposition to the Sedition Provisions by the Victorian Premier, the Federal Opposition and The Age newspaper, as well as broader media coverage.

According to campaign organisers, "This Government believes that the issue has gone away, and that by delaying the process with a token Senate Inquiry and subsequent ALRC review that complacency will set in. This is not the case, and we urgently need your support to let the Government know that we will take this issue to the next election and beyond until these archaic provisions are struck from the law."

Kevin Brennan

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- the independent voice for the arts in Victoria

- The Arts Industry Council (Victoria) is a membership-based not-for-profit lobby organisations seeking to represent the interests of the arts community.
- We receive no on-going support from funding bodies and rely on membership fees to survive.
- To contact us OR TO JOIN email <<mailto:info@aicv.org.au>> or phone 03 9421 2798.

You have received this notice as member of the arts community. If you wish to be removed from this list and do not wish to receive e-news on matters concerning the arts industry from AIC(V), please respond to this email with 'Unsubscribe' in the subject line.