

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Kolmar, Leonie
Sent: Thursday, 18 September 2025 8:33 PM
To: Green, Alison; Spyrou, Arthur
Cc: MSD - Executive Support; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) s. 22(1)(a)(ii) s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: For FAS review - PM media conference - back pocket facts [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

PIF press conference

- This year at the Pacific Islands forum there were limited opportunities in the program to accommodate this.
- At the Prime Minister's press conference, a small number of international media were accommodated in the room.
 - In addition to media who travelled from Australia, a small number of international media and a representative from a wire agency (AFP) attended.
- The Australian Government provided the Prime Minister's transcript to the PIF Secretariat media liaison officer as soon as it was available to ensure it was distributed to all registered media.

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Background:

- The Prime Minister held a media conference on Wednesday, 10 September while attending the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF).

- It occurred between plenary sessions during the PIF Leaders' Meeting Program, approximately 1:30PM Honiara time.
- It was held in a room in the PIF media centre, booked by the Australian Government.
- Australian media were verbally notified about the media conference approximately 15 minutes before it commenced.
 - There was not a clear timeframe as the PIF program was fluid, and had to coincide with the leaders' break for lunch.
 - The conference was limited to 20 minutes because of uncertainty as to when the next plenary session would commence.
 - Given the small size of the room and the length of the press conference – it was not feasible to have a completely open media conference.
- The Prime Minister's office makes the decision on access to media opportunities.
 - At the time media moved into the press conference room at PIF, there were only two journalists who raised concerns about not being permitted to attend.
 - Others were understanding - having seen the size of the room - and were content with a transcript being provided as soon as possible.
- Attendees included:
 - media who had travelled from Australia
 - ABC's local Solomon Islands correspondent
 - two journalists from the Torres Strait Islander Media Association
 - an Australian journalist from Agence France-Presse (AFP)
 - reporter from Island Business.
- The Australian Government provided the Prime Minister's transcript to the PIF Secretariat media liaison officer as soon as it was live to ensure it was distributed to all PIF media.
- New Zealand's Prime Minister also held a media conference during the PIF Leaders' Meeting and restricted access to journalists who travelled from New Zealand.
 - An Australian journalist from the ABC attempted to attend and was declined.

Kind regards,

Leonie Kolmar

Assistant Secretary

Communications Branch | Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

p. s. 22(1)(a)(ii) m. s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

e. Leonie.Kolmar@pmc.gov.au | www.pmc.gov.au

One National Circuit, Barton ACT 2600 | PO Box 6500 CANBERRA ACT 2600

Executive Assistant: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)



The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their continuing spiritual, social and cultural relationship with the land, waters, skies and community. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present, and to their community leaders, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 12 September 2025 12:37 PM
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; PMC Media <Media@pmc.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Local media enquiries [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Hi s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Sorry s. 22(1)(a)(ii) and I are tick tacking on this.

Thanks for sharing the response with us and closing the loop. We have no concerns.

Many thanks,
 s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

PM&C Media

Communications Branch | Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
 Media phone line. [02\) 6271 6039](tel:0262716039) | Media after hours. [0417 164 189](tel:0417164189)

On 12 Sep 2025, at 12:06 pm, s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au> wrote:

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Thanks for this guidance. For your awareness, we're planning on responding to both inquiries with the following:

Australia highly values the crucial role that media representatives in the Pacific play in elevating the voices and perspectives of our region. We regularly engage with the press through our High Commission in Solomon Islands and provide opportunities for engagement with visiting Australian Government delegations where practicable. At times when this is not possible the Australian High Commission remains happy to receive and respond to any inquiries from local media.

Cheers
 s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Counsellor | Strategic Communications
 Australian High Commission | Honiara
 T s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | M s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Wednesday, 10 September 2025 5:05 PM
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: PMO Media Advisors; s. 22(1)(a)(ii), s. 22(1)(a)(ii) Kolmar, Leonie; s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: FOR REFERRAL: Media Enquiry - s. 47F SIBC - PIF press conference [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Do you have a minute to give me a quick call about this?

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @pm.gov.au
Sent: Wednesday, 10 September 2025 5:05 PM
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au
Cc: PMO Media Advisors <PMOMediaAdvisors@pm.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @pm.gov.au; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au; Kolmar, Leonie <Leonie.Kolmar@pmc.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au; PMC Media <Media@pmc.gov.au>
Subject: Re: FOR REFERRAL: Media Enquiry - s. 47F SIBC - PIF press conference [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Sorry, making sure that's being actioned?

Sent from my iPhone

On 10 Sep 2025, at 5:20 pm, s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @pm.gov.au wrote:

Thanks, can we get a suggested response?

Sent from my iPhone

On 10 Sep 2025, at 5:02 pm, s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au wrote:

OFFICIAL

Hi team,

For your referral, please see below the media enquiry we have received from a journalist at the Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation.

MEDIA ENQUIRY FOR REFERRAL	
JOURNALIST/OUTLET	s. 47F Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation

<p>ENQUIRY</p>	<p>I am writing to request clarification regarding the exclusion of local and regional journalists from Prime Minister Albanese’s press conference held this afternoon at the National Stadium in Honiara.</p> <p>Why were Solomon Islands and Pacific regional media denied access to this press event, which took place on Solomon Islands soil?</p> <p>How does the Australian government justify restricting access to Pacific journalists at a time when regional transparency and media freedom are vital to maintaining trust and open dialogue?</p> <p>Does the Australian government stand by the principle of regional media freedom and access — particularly within Pacific democracies that value open and independent journalism?</p> <p>We would appreciate a timely response to these questions, given the implications for media relations and regional democratic values.</p>
<p>DEADLINE</p>	<p>ASAP</p>

Please let us know if you’re happy for us to refer the journalist on to you.

Kind regards,
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (she/her) | Media Adviser
Public Affairs and Media | Communications Branch
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
p. s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | m. s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
e. s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@pmc.gov.au | www.pmc.gov.au
One National Circuit, Barton ACT 2600 | PO Box 6500 CANBERRA ACT 2600
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