

Department of Families, Housing,
Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
Box 7788 Canberra Mail Centre
ACT 2610

7/03/2008

**Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Other
Legislation Amendment (Emergency Response Consolidation) Bill**

The Alliance appreciates the opportunity to comment on proposed new subsection 70 (2BB) of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* in Item 1 of Schedule 3.

The proposed changes would allow Journalists access to Aboriginal community land for the purposes of “reporting, photographing, editing or recording for media report of a news, current affairs, information or documentary character.” subject to certain conditions.

The Alliance is of the view that if the media are exempt from the legislative provisions of the permit system, bona fide journalists would accept the creation of a code of conduct to provide those journalists entering remote indigenous communities with practical guidelines that will balance the needs of a free media with the need to protect the interests, privacy, sacred sites and ceremonies of the Aboriginal people.

The Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance makes the following suggestions for a code of conduct and acknowledges the input of the several Alliance members working as journalists in the Northern Territory:

- Media representatives who arrive in communities will carry proof that they represent or are on assignment for a registered media organisation or that they are a bona fide freelance journalist.
- On arrival in a community media representatives will report to the police and council at the first opportunity and inform them what they intend doing in the community.
- Media representatives will respect Aboriginal culture and sacred sites.
- Media representatives will make all possible efforts to inform themselves of cultural sensitivities, including by attending a seminar on indigenous cultural awareness.
- Media representatives will respect the right to privacy of residents of the community in their home environment.
- Media representatives will abide by the MEAA Code of Ethics.



ABN: 84 054 775 598

FEDERAL OFFICE
245 Chalmers St
Redfern NSW 2016

POSTAL ADDRESS
PO Box 723
Strawberry Hills
NSW 2012 Australia
Tel: [61] 2 9333 0999
Fax: [61] 2 9333 0933

Email
mail@alliance.org.au

Alliance Inquiry Desk
1300 656512

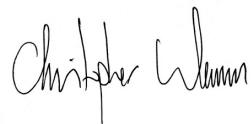
Alliance Membership
Centre 1300 656513

Website:
www.alliance.org.au

Federal President:
Patricia Amphlett

Federal Secretary:
Christopher Warren

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher Warren". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C'.

Christopher Warren
Federal Secretary
Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance
245 Chalmers Street
Redfern NSW 2016
P:02 9333 0940
M: 0411 757 668
E: chris.warren@alliance.org.au

