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## **Alliance Calls For Academic Freedom of Expression**

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The Media, Entertainment & Arts Alliance - the people who inform and entertain Australia**

The Media Alliance has written to the Queensland University of Technology protesting a decision to suspend senior lecturers Dr MacLennan and Dr Hockham from the university for six months without pay, after they publicly objected to the portrayal of disabled persons in a student's thesis film.

"The misconduct charges laid against Drs Hookham and MacLennan are almost unprecedented in Australian universities and stand as a very public attack on freedom of speech," said Alliance federal secretary Christopher Warren.

The Alliance has expressed serious concern about this harsh penalty. It demonstrates a worrying disregard for the importance of a free press in which opinions of all kind are represented.

"People in all professions, including academia, must be awarded the right to express their views in the public arena without fearing possible penalties," said Warren. "The creation of an environment in which academics hesitate to speak their mind and contribute to public debate is of serious concern."

The Alliance has urged the QUT to treat this issue of academic freedom of expression with careful consideration.

*The Media Alliance represents more than 10,000 journalists across Australia*

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