

00:20:08 Liam (Australia Institute): Hi all - Liam from The Australia Institute here. Thanks for joining us today. Looking forward to a great webinar!

A little reminder, the chat has options for 'all panellists' or 'all panellists and attendees'. Choose the latter option to participate in the chat with everyone.

Also, use the Q&A function to submit questions for the panel to answer live!

00:20:30 Rudolf Blums: Hallo from Belgrave, Wurundjeri land.

00:21:40 Anne: Hi from Qandamooka country.

00:21:46 Michelle Shackleton: Living and working on Dhurag land, always was always will be.

00:22:38 Anne: Senator Patrick is a gift to Estimates

00:22:40 Gerard Biddle: Good morning all

00:23:09 Fred Sim: Kaya from Nyoongar country

00:23:55 Louise Evans: Hello from Newcastle Australia - Awabakal land

00:24:18 Fred Sim: Looking forward to today's conversations. Thanks for holding Canberra to account especially with this current mob.

00:24:57 Martin Mansfield: Hi all from the land of the Bidjigal people of the Dharug nation

00:25:35 Kanchana Pathirana: Good morning everyone from kurna country, Adelaide, SA.

00:26:07 Bev Majda: Hello to all, also from Kurna country :)

00:26:37 Sharyn White: No we can't do that if we are adopted.

00:26:44 Sharyn White: We have no right to FOI

00:26:58 Gerard Biddle: Keep up the pressure Sen Rex Patrick on both sides of the major parties. I think both Government and Opposition need a shake along with this endeavour.

00:27:06 Ken Engsmyr: Good morning from Parkes NSW, Wiradjuri Country

00:29:06 Sharyn White: Adopted people cannot do an FOI

00:31:04 Liam (Australia Institute): Here is a summary of how to make an FOI request: <https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/how-to-make-an-foi-request/>

00:31:25 Greg (Darwin, Australia): Bah. We don't need aristocracts "acting on our behalf" (ie. on their Party's behalf).

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Recorded live on 21 July 2021

<https://youtu.be/IOsbww9-Q6s>

- 00:32:14 Greg (Darwin, Australia): (Please ignore spelling mistake)
- 00:33:40 John Thompson: It's not unjustified - it's outrageous!
- 00:34:24 Gerard Biddle: Thanks for link Liam.
- 00:36:22 Kerri Clarke: Secrecy around re-branding gas and coal with renewable energy against the wishes of the people that fought hard to stop further development of CSG in Australia.
- 00:36:29 Anne: Typically sneaky move to secretise what is essentially COAG.
- 00:37:40 Suzanne Howarth: Sneaky and sad.....
- 00:38:29 Anne: But a monster move that blocks the flow of information and decision making.
- 00:39:17 Suzanne Howarth: It leads to the question who is advising the Prime Minister? Where do these people come from ?
- 00:40:07 John Thompson: So how can the secretary of the PMC refuse to submit documents to the Senate?
- 00:40:32 Suzanne Howarth: That is a fascinating question. And deserves an answer
- 00:40:45 Anne: Pass said documents across Can
- 00:41:06 Eric Hunter: Good on you Senator for standing up for the Australian people's democratic rights. How do you though get over the traditional complacency of the same electorate, that by virtue of our generally comfortable lives are unwilling to rock any boats that don't direct affect them?
- 00:41:57 Anne: Pass said docs across cabinet table and claim confidentiality; claim commercial-in-confidence, or heavily redact
- 00:42:58 Anne: Also "taken on notice" and never fulfilled
- 00:43:18 Liam (Australia Institute): Our research on the Five Eyes nations' intelligence oversight is available here - it also happens to be authored by Bill!
<https://australiainstitute.org.au/post/oversight-of-australias-spy-agencies-weak-compared-to-other-five-eyes-countries/>
- 00:44:07 Jill Newton: John Thompson, that's a great question. Why not put it in the Q and A box where it can be answered?
- 00:45:27 Anne: Watch Senate Estimates and see that the excuses are legion
- 00:45:38 Bev Majda: This is fascinating!! Thanks Senator Rex
- 00:49:17 Anne: What a scary power for PM!
- 00:49:52 Stephen Masters: Scary power for a scary PM!
- 00:50:16 John Thompson: In my electorate, our current member should have been subject to an intelligence check.
- 00:52:13 Louise Evans: John Intelligence is obviously not a prerequisite these days.

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00:53:08 Greg (Darwin, Australia): It never has been. The important thing is popularity (ie. vote-winning).

00:54:06 Mark Roberts: Hi Greg.

00:54:08 Louise Evans: Magic words were - I seek access to

00:54:18 Jeffrey Coster: I have deep qualms concerning many of the current incumbents with regard to national security. An intelligence check should be obligatory.

00:54:44 Andrew Collins: No Bill of rights. No freedom of expression, or anything else, except vague and shifting implied rights possibly required by our system of representative Govt. However, this Govt in particular is squeezing what's required under a supposed representative Govt. More like Govt for Marginal seats and sponsors

00:54:54 Shirani de Mel: One of the best webinars I've attended. I've been hearing about Senator Patrick for a while and he's one of those very rare independent politicians. Labor is woeful in keeping this government to account. Thanks Senator.

00:55:16 Darryl Fallow: More Independent Senators Please!

00:55:34 Ken Engsmyr: I have to leave the meeting, but just to say that hearing Sen Patrick explain some aspects of how the Senate and the government work has been enlightening. Ken

00:55:39 Suzanne Howarth: A sensational webinar. Looking forward to the recording so that I can listen again.

00:55:53 Alistair McCulloch: I think Rex is sounding too sensible to be a politician ... I'm not sure he really exists :-)

00:56:48 Tony Simons: Like Andrew Wilkie Rex is a man of great integrity and decency.

00:57:14 Theologia Keramaris: Bless you and what you are doing Senator Rex and the panel here!!! This is sensational! I can't wait to listen to this again and share, share, share



00:58:28 Glenn O: Given this current govt, changing the Constitution to allow Freedom of Political Communication or Expression seems like you'll be eating half the elephant all at once...

00:59:25 Glenn O: Assange has been hung out to dry by this govt

00:59:31 Anne: If Assange were returned to Australia, I would expect this govt to allow extradition to US in a heartbeat.

00:59:39 Stephen Masters: Shoot the elephant and focus on getting a Bill of Rights right now.

00:59:43 Suzanne Howarth: The NSW Government has kicked off this complex reform process with changes to the law of defamation. Now it is time for the Commonwealth Government to do the right thing.....

00:59:46 Fred Sim: The role of Independents in Parliament cannot be understated - its that balancing act with that hesitance to "microparties"

01:00:04 Theologia Keramaris: Free Julian Assange!! He has a family for goodness sakes!!

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01:00:12 Sharyn White: Any chance you can look at the discrimination applied to adopted people as our information requests don't come under FOI laws - so we are left with no timeframe to process our information requests, whereas there are protections under FOI.

01:00:32 Liam (Australia Institute): "This email is a request for the purpose of the FOI Act I seek access to... " :)

01:00:41 Liam (Australia Institute): roughly!

01:00:48 Michelle Shackleton: Thank you, Liam!

01:01:29 Liam (Australia Institute): Rather than relying on my rough translation, here is a better resource: <https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/how-to-make-an-foi-request/>

01:04:23 Suzanne Howarth: Mr and Mrs Cormann were quite a dynamic duo

01:04:54 Suzanne Howarth: I would encourage everyone to find out more about Mrs Cormann and all that she did while her husband was a politician

01:06:36 Daniel Martin: Hayley

01:06:47 Suzanne Howarth: Yes, Hayley

01:07:01 Daniel Martin: All I can see is that she is a well paid barrister, any links?

01:07:35 Suzanne Howarth: No allegations. Just check out the road that she has travelled over the time Matthias was in the Senate.

01:08:05 Silva Rigutti: How was Mmr Cormann entitled to gov assistance with a plane and staff to seek his appointment after he resigned?

01:08:25 Suzanne Howarth: I have no idea

01:09:07 Liam (Australia Institute): Just a reminder to please keep all comments in the chat civil and on topic – Thanks!

01:10:04 Fred Sim: Silencing clauses in Agreements (eg Employment Agreements) counteracts Whistleblowing too "the reputation of the organisation". Perhaps we need to approach this from an IR perspective??

01:10:25 Daniel Martin: Gov. corruption seems on topic :^)

Also Remember Silva, Scomo was happy to make over 50 calls to heads of state to get Cormann the job, but couldn't handle a single call to the global head of Pfizer

01:15:28 Jeffrey Coster: Those officials of the Defence Department who are obfuscating the Senate enquiry should be pilloried.

01:15:44 Silva Rigutti: Maybe if this Gov gave the same privileges (as given to Gorman) to all unemployed we would have less unemployment

01:18:28 Bev Majda: A great South Australian. Thank you Senator and TAI

01:19:15 Darryl Fallow: Great Webinar - one of the best - with great information from Senator Patrick. Senator - please keep up the good work. We need more independent voices in the parliament that will advocate for the national good and act in the best interests of their constituents. Thanks to TAI for this webinar!

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01:19:18 Helen Clarke: An excellent session - so informative and empowering. Thank you.
Helen

01:19:56 Liam (Australia Institute): Wow! We're stoked that you all enjoyed having Senator Patrick online with us – what a great reception. Thanks to all for joining us today and for participating in a fascinating discussion! For details about upcoming webinars and to book head to https://nb.tai.org.au/webinar_series

At the bottom of the page you can view our previous webinars in full if you missed any – including this one when it is uploaded soon.

Thanks again for joining us – and enjoy the rest of your day!

01:20:01 Sharyn White: It's sad that the people who supposedly care about Freedom of Information don't care about the Australians denied the most basic information that is a right of every other citizen.

01:20:09 Alistair McCulloch: An excellent discussion. Thanks to all involved.

01:20:14 Anne: Thanks, Senator! What a hero.

01:20:23 Elizabeth Prime: Excellent - thank you to all.

01:20:26 LEONIE COWAN: Thanks so much Rex. You are a true legend. Rex for PM

01:20:32 Martin Mansfield: Thank you Senator Patrick and TAI. This has been a great webinar. I am very impressed Senator.

01:20:34 Kanchana Pathirana: Thank you so much for all the effort and energy you have given thus far Senator and to your office. We support your continued efforts for transparency.

01:20:37 John Thompson: Support your local Voices For nominee!!\

01:20:40 Theologia Keramaris: Brilliant and outstanding
 Rex for PM

01:20:43 helena stam: excellent session

01:20:43 Susanne Weress: Another excellent vote, thank you Rex.

01:20:43 Jill Rogerson: Time runs out so quickly with such an interesting guest. Would TAI consider having Senator Patrick back?

01:20:43 John Iser: Thank you Senator

01:20:50 Diane Deane: Fantastic session. Thanks Ebony Rex and Bill