



**PHILIP COUPER**  
**SENATE CANDIDATE FOR**  
**WESTERN AUSTRALIA**



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Nauru Bans ABC from Pacific Islands Forum

With news the Government of Nauru has banned Australian Broadcasting Corporation reporters from covering the Pacific Islands Forum, which is to be attended by Australia's Prime Minister, I along with most Australians are outraged at such an attempt to restrict press freedoms.

Freedom of opinion and expression is an inalienable right of a free people, as is the freedom of the press in Australia. The Australian Press Council agreed on the "Charter for a Free Press in Australia" in 2003, and the charter can be found at <https://www.presscouncil.org.au/charter-of-press-freedom/>

The Australian Government and our Prime Minister must immediately reject this attempt to restrict press freedoms, and if the decision is not immediately reversed, then our Government and Prime Minister must reconsider its decision to attend the Pacific Islands Forum in Nauru, or alternatively find another location to hold the Pacific Islands Forum to ensure Australia's media organisations, including the Australian Broadcasting Corporation is able to attend.

Its time Australia, and Australians are put first and the Australian media and public will not be censored by the Government of Nauru.

I call on all politicians, political parties and the Australian media to support this position.

Philip Couper  
Senate Candidate for Western Australia

-ENDS-

We're Australian and we look after one another - It's time for change Australia and together we can do it.

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