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Launcestonians who were trapped in Kuwait. She retold my story accurately, precisely and with dignity". Then she heard that her loved ones had escaped.

Handing a bouquet to the reporter, Ms Bartkevicius acknowledged that, "she knew what I didn't, that I would be catapulted into instant fame, and told me clearly what to expect and how I may handle that. It happened exactly as she had forewarned. That sensitive and ethical young journalist taught me that I could expect from my local newspaper nurture, support, and protection in the form of advice and knowledge in my hour of need".

Recalling the events surrounding his suicide attempt, Senator Sherry praised the media, who "were extremely respectful of myself and my family's privacy". Since his return to public duties, some in the media, "have raised the issue with me from time to time. And I regard that as perfectly legitimate. Of course, I have the right to make a comment or to respond as I so wish, and I have done that from time to time. But, any person who is elected to public office and who makes decisions about our society, it is perfectly valid to make comment and enquire about their health when they return to public office."

To Sum Up

What is News? Mr Scott has the final word:

"I can't answer really the question of what is news, but if you read tomorrow's *Examiner* you'll see what our news team thought was news today."

DEBORAH KIRKMAN

ABOUT THE PRESS COUNCIL

The Australian Press Council was established in 1976 with the responsibility of preserving the freedom of the press within Australia and ensuring the maintenance of the highest journalistic standards, while at the same time serving as a forum to which anyone may take a complaint concerning the press.

It is funded by the newspaper industry, and its authority rests on the willingness of publishers and editors to respect the Council's views, to adhere voluntarily to ethical standards and to admit mistakes publicly.

The Council consists of 21 members. Apart from the chairman (who must have no association with the press), there are 10 publishers' nominees, seven public members, two journalist members and an editor member. The newspapers' representatives are drawn from the ranks of metropolitan, suburban, regional and country publishers as well as from AAP. The public is represented by people from all walks of life, none of whom can have had any previous connection with the press.

The Press Council is able to amend its constitution with the approval of its constituent bodies. Significantly, great importance is placed on members acting as individuals rather than as the representatives of their appointing organisations.

Complaints Procedure

If you have a complaint against a newspaper or periodical (not about advertising), you should first take it up with the editor or other representative of the publication concerned.

If the complaint is not resolved to your satisfaction, you may refer it to the Australian Press Council. A complaint must be specific, in writing, and accompanied by a cutting or clear photostat of the matter complained of, with supporting documents or evidence, if any. Complaints must be lodged within three months of publication.

The Council will not hear a complaint subject to legal action, or possible legal action, unless the complainant is willing to sign a waiver of the right to such action.

Address complaints or inquiries to:

Executive Secretary
The Australian Press Council
Suite 303, 149 Castlereagh St
Sydney NSW 2000

Phone: (02) 9261 1930 or (1800) 02 5712

Fax: (02) 9267 6826

E-Mail: info@presscouncil.org.au

A booklet setting out the aims, practices and procedures of the Council is available free from the above address.

It, together with other relevant material, is available from the Council website: <http://www.presscouncil.org.au/>

MAILING LIST AND MAILING LABEL

If you change address and would like to continue to receive the Press Council's publications, please advise the office of any such change.

Also, check the label on the envelope or wrapper to ensure that it is accurate. Any correction to the information on the label should be forwarded to the Press Council's office.

As the *News* and all adjudications are now published direct to the Internet, if you would prefer to access it that way and therefore want your name removed from the mailing list for the printed version, please so advise the Council's office. The Internet address is printed above.

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