

30th May 2012

First name surname

Address Line 1

Address Line 2

SUBURB STATE POSTCODE

Dear

Freedom of speech is at the heart of individual liberty and of democracy. And it seems like no one in a position of power in Australia understands that.

Enclosed with this letter is your free copy of *In Defence of Freedom of Speech: From Ancient Greece to Andrew Bolt* by IPA Research Fellow, Chris Berg. It is one of the IPA's most important publications in recent years.

You are receiving this book because generous members of the Institute of Public Affairs have donated to help us spread the message about freedom of speech. We're sending this book to judges, journalists and members of parliament because anyone who has the power to influence the laws that restrict free speech must understand the dangers of doing so.

Sadly, the overwhelming evidence we've seen over the last year demonstrates that most of them don't understand this danger at all.

Freedom of speech is under attack in Australia. From the Andrew Bolt case, to the ongoing investigation of Alan Jones for interviewing too many climate sceptics, to the outrageous proposals to regulate the press, far too many in our legal profession, political class and media industry have forgotten why freedom of speech matters, and why it must be defended.

I want you to read Chris Berg's new book so that you understand where the concept of freedom of speech comes from. I want you to read it so that you can learn why seventeenth century England regarded licensing of newspapers as tyrannical but Senator Bob Brown does not. I want you to read it so that you can see why freedom of speech is our most fundamental liberty, and why it is indispensable in a free society.

Most of all I want you to read this book so that you realise that defending freedom of speech is

your responsibility too.

All our work to defend freedom of speech over the last year tells me one thing: Australians do understand why their liberty is under threat. And they don't like it one bit.

I know this because when the case against Andrew Bolt commenced the IPA held a sold out forum on free speech with nearly 600 people in Melbourne.

I know this because when the IPA asked Galaxy to poll Australians about whether they thought the right to free speech was more important than the right not to be offended, 82 per cent agreed.

I know this because when the IPA said we wanted to place a full-page statement in *The Australian* to defend free speech after Andrew Bolt's court case, 1,261 people made a donation to fund it.

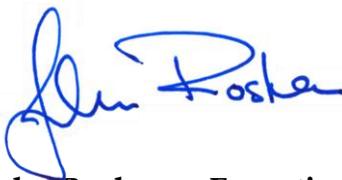
I know this because when the IPA invited Mark Steyn to tour Australia to help us defend free speech, every single one of his events in Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane sold out before he even landed in the country. In total, more than 2,000 people paid to hear him stand up for free expression.

I know this because when we asked our members and supporters to tell our political leaders that Section 18C of the *Racial Discrimination Act*, which allowed the Andrew Bolt case to happen, must be repealed, 1,796 emails were sent to Julia Gillard, Tony Abbott and Bob Brown.

Now it is time that our leaders understood this too. I hope *In Defence of Freedom of Speech: From Ancient Greece to Andrew Bolt* helps them to do so.

If you'd like more copies of the book or to discuss what you can do to help defend free speech, please email me at jroskam@ipa.org.au or call me on 0415 475 673 at any time.

Yours sincerely



John Roskam – Executive Director