



STUART GRIMLEY MP

Member for Western Victoria
State Leader of Derryn Hinch's Justice Party

MEDIA RELEASE



Wednesday 18 March, 2020

Extending the Powers for Photography in the Legislative Council

Stuart Grimley MP has today introduced a motion to the Legislative Council to expand the ability for the public to take photographs from the gallery.

Currently, only accredited media can film video, use audio supplied by Hansard and take photos of Members in the Chamber (with a guideline specifying that they should only focus on a member that has the call).

Further, no mobile phones or photographic devices are able to be used by members of the public sitting in the gallery.

Similarly, no photos are to be taken of people sitting in the public galleries. And people in the galleries cannot take photos of the members of the upper house.

Mr Grimley's motion requires the Parliamentary Procedures Committee to "inquire, consider and report... on changes to the rules and regulations relating to photography in the Legislative Council Chamber to ensure greater transparency [by 1 February 2021]."

A crossbench MP in the Legislative Council, Mr Grimley quoted that just 25% of Australians trusted their Government and the increasing distance between our nations' young people and the Parliament is increasing.

Mr Grimley's push comes after Derryn Hinch – leader of the party that bears his name – had 25 year old photography [censorship laws lifted](#) in the Federal Senate in 2016.

The motion is available – in full – below.

Quotes Attributable to Stuart Grimley MP:

"In this day and age, it seems absurd that guests to our Parliament aren't able to photograph the members that represent them. Parliamentarians should be subject to as much scrutiny and transparency as possible.

Whilst a small change, this would allow more freedom for taking photographs by members of the public which I think is democratic and increases accountability of our elected representatives, including myself.

In 2016, our party leader Derryn Hinch championed this same cause in the Federal Senate, to allow more scrutiny of MPs and I firmly believe this should be the same at a State level.

As Derryn said at the time, "If you get caught nibbling your ear wax, or counting your money or dozing: Tough."

Media Contact: Olivia Nicholls / Olivia.nicholls@parliament.vic.gov.au / 0459 419 755



STUART GRIMLEY MP

Member for Western Victoria
State Leader of Derryn Hinch's Justice Party

MEDIA RELEASE



That this House notes that —

- (1) the Legislative Council functions on behalf of all Victorians and therefore all proceedings should be subject to public scrutiny;
- (2) a recent Australian Election Survey conducted by the Australian National University of more than 2,100 Australians found just 25 per cent of respondents believed people in Government could be trusted;
- (3) fair media coverage of Parliamentary proceedings is a critical part of democracy;
- (4) visual and audio recording and still photography are permitted in the Legislative Council Chamber by accredited media organisations and individuals only;
- (5) removing certain restrictions on photography in the Australian Senate has ensured a greater sense of transparency in the Federal Parliament;
- (6) extending the permissions for photography in the Legislative Council Chamber is just one of many measures which may restore some faith in the political process;

and requires the Procedure Committee to inquire into, consider and report, by no later than 1 February 2021, on changes to the rules and regulations relating to photography in the Legislative Council Chamber to ensure greater transparency.