

Press Freedom in Australia: Democracy, Transparency, and Trust
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What does the electorate have a right to know? When can the government keep something a secret? When is the justification of “national security” appropriate?

Why are transparency and accountability such important values for democracy? How have the actions taken by the Australian government undermined these goods?

When does government secrecy for reasons of “national security” serve the public’s interest? When does it not? Can you give recent examples of each?

There have been a number of recent, high profile cases involving whistleblowers like Edward Snowden and Chelsea Manning. What do your answers to these previous questions say about cases like these and the balance between the need for secrecy and the public’s right to know?