

MEDIA RELEASE



NEW SOUTH WALES
BAR ASSOCIATION

SUGGESTION OF POLITICAL INTERFERENCE COMPROMISES INTEGRITY OF INDEPENDENT INQUIRIES

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Comments in an article in *The Australian* yesterday about the *Special Commission of Inquiry into the events surrounding the Ruby Princess cruise ship*, which described it as a “sham inquiry” and “State-sponsored bastardry designed to ensure” a particular outcome, are unfortunate and risk undermining the inquiry’s integrity, according to the New South Wales Bar Association.

“Public inquiries play an important independent role in examining and reporting on matters of public importance. This inquiry is no different to any other in that respect,” the President of the New South Wales Bar Association, Tim Game SC, said today.

“The perception of independence and integrity is crucial to those inquiries being able to serve that public purpose.

“Independent inquiries are of great interest to the public and media coverage of proceedings should be actively encouraged.

“Any independent inquiry, regardless of its subject matter, must be free from interference of any kind that would undermine public confidence in the process and procedure” Mr Game said.

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