



**Speaker of the House of Representatives
Anna Burke MP**

29 MAY 2013

Dr Kristine Klugman OAM
President
Civil Liberties Australia
PO Box 7438
FISHER ACT 2611

Dear Dr Klugman

Thank you for your letter of 15 May 2013 in which you draw my attention to security procedures outside the public galleries of the House of Representatives chamber. Specifically, you raised concerns about the screening process prior to entry into the chamber and also about the inconsistent advice you received about note taking in the chamber.

The screening arrangements outside the House of Representatives chamber provide an extra layer of security for all those entering the chamber and the public galleries. The arrangements do require many visitors to the galleries to remove their shoes and belts and there are many 'positive' readings. At issue is striking the right balance between security needs and ease of access to the galleries. Your request for a review of the sensitivity of gallery screening settings will be considered. It is important, however, that any changes to security arrangements not compromise security.

In relation to note taking, you should not have been given conflicting advice about whether you could take notes in the galleries. Note taking is permitted and officers of the Parliamentary Security Service have been reminded of this fact.

I am sorry that you were so unhappy with your experience that you decided not to enter the chamber. All Members want visitors to have a positive experience when they come to *Parliament House*. Thank you for your comments once again, and I trust you will revisit the building in future and see the chamber in action.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anna Burke'.

ANNA BURKE
Speaker