

20-Feb-2026

**Response from an ABC spokesperson,**

The Pauline Hanson press conference was taken live in the context of reporting on the Liberal Party spill that had occurred morning, the impact of the surge in support for One Nation and the party fielding a candidate in the Farrer by-election. The back-announce and subsequent live cross with a federal politics reporter was on that subject.

ABC journalists regularly challenge the assertions and statements of all politicians and work hard to equip themselves with the knowledge and detail to be able to do so. Whether or not a journalist can fact check or query every comment or statement depends on the environment in which they're made. For example, it isn't always possible in a live interview or press conference to qualify every assertion, nor would that necessarily best serve the audience, particularly if it distracts from a key line of questioning.

It's important we don't censor or soften politicians' comments when they are newsworthy — which would leave audiences with a false impression — but report them accurately and with context.