

**Response from Graeme Dobell, Journalist Fellow, Australian Strategic Policy Institute:**

**How would you describe coverage of the Pacific region by Australia media?**

Cash-strapped papers gave up on the South Pacific in the early years of this century. Our coverage begins and ends with the ABC and Radio Australia, as it has for two decades. Aunty does a lot, but it can't do everything.

**Why does it matter? What is the risk of little or no coverage?**

This China story highlights the sort of gap that leaves. Reuters got the scoop because it still has journalists out there.

**What needs to change?**

Australia talks of the Pacific family. We need a lot more news about our family. That means more money for the ABC. More journos, more coverage. This is becoming so big and so important, the rest of Australia's media will have to pay attention to the region where we live.

**Read more from Graeme Dobell:**

<https://www.aspi.org.au/bio/graeme-dobell>