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Journalists need to be protected

The article "Crime commission demands journalists' phones and records" (March 18) is disturbing. It shows that more care needs to be taken in conferring powers on government commissions and agencies. Journals of record such as the *Herald* must be able to freely and openly report the news. If the rule of law in Australia is to be equal to the challenges of a modern democracy, the media must be able to protect their sources, within the sensible bounds as suggested by *Herald* publisher Peter Fray - otherwise transparency and accountability in government will be the loser.

The journalist shield reforms being thrashed out in Canberra need to apply to journalists writing for publications such as the *Herald*.

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