

FW: For advice Thursday AM - Journalism Assistance Fund [SEC=OFFICIAL]

From s22(1)(a)(ii)
 Date Thu 23/07/2026 9:16 AM
 To s22(1)(a)(ii)
 Cc s22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

Good morning s22(1)(a)(ii)

We've received the below from our office. I will call you shortly to discuss.

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Assistant Director • Industry Initiatives Section • News and Journalism Branch • Broadcasting, Media and News Policy Division

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Ngunnawal Country, GPO Box 594 Canberra, ACT 2601

OFFICIAL

From: s22(1)(a)(ii)
 Sent: Wednesday, 22 July 2026 9:52 PM
 To: Media <media@infrastructure.gov.au>
 Cc: Verdon, Andrew <Andrew.Verdon@INFRASTRUCTURE.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii)
 s22(1)(a)(ii)
 Subject: Re: For advice Thursday AM - Journalism Assistance Fund [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

No problem s22(1)(a) We will pull this information together. s22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Media <media@infrastructure.gov.au>
 Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2026 6:16 PM
 To: s22(1)(a)(ii)
 Cc: Verdon, Andrew <Andrew.Verdon@INFRASTRUCTURE.gov.au>; Media <media@infrastructure.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii)
 Subject: For advice Thursday AM - Journalism Assistance Fund [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hello s22(1)
(a)(ii)

One for the morning (Thurs)

You may have seen some reporting yesterday around the Journalism Assistance Fund - e.g. on [2gb](#), though the original story was on the (partisan) One News Australia site (see attached for full text, the site seems to be blocked on our devices). I've pulled out an extract below - MO is just keen for some holding lines mainly around eligibility requirements and what happens should an outlet who received a grant subsequently folds.

From article -

Taxpayer money went to a company two days old, a publisher in liquidation and a dead ABN Wire Media Group Pty Ltd, publisher of The Southern Wire in the NSW Southern Highlands, had its ABN registered on 19 November 2025, two days before applications opened. It registered its business name the day after that, then collected \$85,800. No public record names its owners.

Business News Australia Pty Ltd had its \$128,700 grant published on 17 December 2025. Five weeks later, on 22 January 2026, the company entered creditors' voluntary liquidation, with founder Camilla Westerlund reportedly describing the funding as "too little, too late". The masthead's website later resumed publishing under ownership that remains unclear.

Korean News Pty Ltd had its \$39,000 grant approved on 10 February 2026. Its ABN has been cancelled since 30 June 2026.

Some recipients doubled up through related companies. The Intermedia Group and its majority owned Mumbrella Media collected \$471,900 between them. The two Vision China Times entities took \$251,394. Several other recipients are family trusts that can't be matched to any masthead from public records at all. All of it went through the process the guidelines describe, and that's exactly the problem: the net was this loose by design.

I thought we'd had a query along these lines previously but it was actually about the closure of the ACM printing site and it wasn't clear at that time whether or not online publication was continuing (also attached for reference). I've popped together a few lines as a start but grateful for your input -

Through the Journalism Assistance Fund, the Government delivered \$67.6 million of support to more than 2,000 journalists across 185 Australian news publishers. This included \$25.4 million for over 90 regional media organisations.

As with all Government grant processes, funding was awarded following assessment against robust eligibility criteria, with guidelines available at [Journalism Assistance Fund | business.gov.au](#). All recipients are required to submit regular progress reports to the department, which are monitored closely to ensure the objectives of the grant are being achieved.

[input on what happens if an outlet fails to meet requirements and/or folds]

[background for MOs on any instances we are aware of where this has occurred]

Happy to chat!

Cheers

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Media Manager • Media Services • Communication Branch

s22(1)(a)(ii)

s22(1)(a)(ii)

• **MEDIA LINE** +61 2 6136 8112

145 Ann Street, Brisbane QLD 4000 • Yuggera and Turrbal Country

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts

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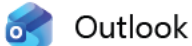
I acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land on which we meet, work and live.

I recognise and respect their continuing connection to the land, waters and communities.

I pay my respects to Elders past and present and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

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RE: For advice Thursday AM - Journalism Assistance Fund [SEC=OFFICIAL]

From: s22(1)(a)(ii)
 Date: Thu 23/07/2026 9:29 AM
 To: s22(1)(a)(ii)
 Cc: s22(1)(a)(ii) Verdon, Andrew
 <Andrew.Verdon@INFRASTRUCTURE.gov.au>

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Hi again,

I've asked s22(1)(a)(ii) to gather up the articles so I can keep working through the legislation. I've tried to call s22(1)(a)(ii) but she is not picking up. Hopefully she'll call me back soon.

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Assistant Director • Industry Initiatives Section • News and Journalism Branch • Broadcasting, Media and News Policy Division

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Ngunnawal Country, GPO Box 594 Canberra, ACT 2601

OFFICIAL

From: s22(1)(a)(ii)
 Sent: Thursday, 23 July 2026 8:14 AM
 To: s22(1)(a)(ii)
 Cc: s22(1)(a)(ii) Verdon, Andrew
 <Andrew.Verdon@INFRASTRUCTURE.gov.au>
 Subject: Re: For advice Thursday AM - Journalism Assistance Fund [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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Thanks s22(1)(a)(ii)

See you hear shortly.

Yes, please alert the Hub. s22(1)(a)(ii) and I are meeting with s22(1)(a)(ii) at midday on other things so I will alert them to the need to support us on this matter.

Everyone needs to read the full website page at www.onenewsaustralia.com as it raises other issues we will need to engage with.

Please also gather together the full 2GB transcript, the Daily Telegraph article and the Sky News segment hosted by Andrew Bolt. Please access these from iSentia and send the links around. We will need to attach them to the QTB update - QB26-000107.

s22(1)(a)
(ii)

From: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2026 6:50 AM
To: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc:
Subject: RE: For advice Thursday AM - Journalism Assistance Fund [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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I suggest we reach out to s22(1)(a)(ii) at BGH in relation to these. We are aware of BNA folding and of double ups as mentioned in ONA.

I think most are explainable and the guidelines have been upheld in all instances as s22(1)(a) words have articulated.

I'm heading to the gym shortly and plan to be in the office later this morning.

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Assistant Director • Industry Initiatives Section • News and Journalism Branch • Broadcasting, Media and News Policy Division

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Ngunnawal Country, GPO Box 594 Canberra, ACT 2601

OFFICIAL

From: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Wednesday, 22 July 2026 9:52 PM
To: Media <media@infrastructure.gov.au>
Cc: Verdon, Andrew <Andrew.Verdon@INFRASTRUCTURE.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: Re: For advice Thursday AM - Journalism Assistance Fund [SEC=OFFICIAL]

s 22(1)(a)(ii) Duplicated email chain from Document 1

s 22(1)(a)(ii) Duplicated email chain from Document 1



From: Media <media@infrastructure.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2026 6:16 PM

To: s22(1)(a)(ii)

Cc: Verdon, Andrew <Andrew.Verdon@INFRASTRUCTURE.gov.au>; Media <media@infrastructure.gov.au>;
s22(1)(a)(ii)

Subject: For advice Thursday AM - Journalism Assistance Fund [SEC=OFFICIAL]

s 22(1)(a)(ii) Duplicated email chain from Document 1



s 22(1)(a)(ii) Duplicated email chain from Document 1



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4:09

5G

s22(1)(a)(ii)



Copy to leave i

Y

Just jumped back on

Yesterday 12:51 pm

Did media watch have specific
qs? Just want to make sure it's
covered off



It's background for them
It's about how grants are
assessed, what checks and
balances are in place, what
happens to the funding if
places close
How does the dept assure itself
applications are genuine

It was just a conversation not
an email

No dramas

Yesterday 2:05 pm

Ok with you now

Delivered

Thank you!



iMessage



From: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: 23 July 2026 12:56
To: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: FYI One News Australia (One Nation) News MAP article [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Thank you – I will try a bit later? I’m running on empty and have some other things to sort, including getting some food, so it will likely be after 3 at the earliest, if that works.

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Assistant Director • Industry Initiatives Section • News and Journalism Branch • Broadcasting, Media and News Policy Division

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Ngunnawal Country, GPO Box 594 Canberra, ACT 2601

From: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Thursday, 23 July 2026 12:46 PM
To: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: FYI One News Australia (One Nation) News MAP article [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Hi s22(1)(a)

Let me know when you are free and we can have a chat. I am in the office today so will find a quieter place to speak.

Kind regards

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Program Manager

Business Grants Hub | Grant Programs & Assurance Branch
Yuggera and Turrbal Country, Level 13, 100 Creek St Brisbane QLD 4000 Australia
Department of Industry, Science and Resources

s22(1)(a)(ii)

| industry.gov.au ABN 74 599 608 295

Our purpose is to help the government build a better future for all Australians through enabling a productive, resilient and sustainable economy, enriched by science and technology.



Acknowledgement of Country

Our department recognises the First Peoples of this Nation and their ongoing cultural and spiritual connections to the lands, waters, seas, skies, and communities.
We Acknowledge First Nations Peoples as the Traditional Custodians and Lore Keepers of the oldest living culture and pay respects to their Elders past and present. We extend that respect to all First Nations Peoples.



OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

From: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Thursday, 23 July 2026 10:20 AM
To: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc:
Subject: RE: FYI One News Australia (One Nation) News MAP article [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

CAUTION - This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

OFFICIAL

I’m going to be in meetings until 12, so I will try and get in contact after that 😊

OFFICIAL

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From: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Thursday, 23 July 2026 10:12 AM
To: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc:
Subject: RE: FYI One News Australia (One Nation) News MAP article [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Hi s22(1)(a)(ii)

Thank you, yep we have seen this one (as well as a few others). We can chat further when we catch up and yes s22(1)(a)(ii) will call s22(1)(a)(ii)

Regards

s22(1)(a)(ii)
Manager
Business Grants Hub | Grant Programs and Insights Branch | Program Delivery
Department of Industry, Science and Resources
100 Creek Street, Brisbane, Queensland

s22(1)(a)(ii)

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**I often work flexibly and send emails out of hours. There is no need to review or respond to my emails outside of your hours.*

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

From: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Thursday, 23 July 2026 9:57 AM
To: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc:
Subject: Fw: FYI One News Australia (One Nation) News MAP article [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

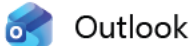
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Hi s22(1)(a)(ii)
Not sure if you have seen this article in full - attached FYI. I understand s22(1)(a)(ii) is talking to s22(1)(a)(ii) about a couple of matters within this article.
Thanks,
s22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL



JAF points [SEC=OFFICIAL]

From Media <media@infrastructure.gov.au>

Date Thu 23/07/2026 2:05 PM

To s22(1)(a)(ii)

Cc s22(1)(a)(ii); Media <media@infrastructure.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii); KENNEDY, Cathie
<Cathie.KENNEDY@infrastructure.gov.au>

OFFICIAL

Hi s22(1)(ii)

Sorry for the delay - some points on JAF below - let us know if you need anything further?

Through the Journalism Assistance Fund, the Government delivered \$67.6 million of support to more than 2,000 journalists across 185 Australian news publishers. This included \$25.4 million for over 90 regional media organisations.

As with all Government grant processes, funding was awarded following assessment against eligibility criteria stated in the Grant Guidelines available at [Journalism Assistance Fund | business.gov.au](https://www.business.gov.au/journalism-assistance-fund).

Grantees were required to execute a grant agreement and submit regular progress reports to the department, which are monitored closely to ensure the obligations of the grant are being met.

As stated in the Grant Guidelines, the Commonwealth may recover grant funds if there is a breach of the grant agreement.

The Journalism Assistance Fund is paid in 3 instalments over 3 years. This allows for any funds to be returned or subsequent payments to be withheld if required. These matters are considered on a case-by-case basis.

Cheers

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Media Manager • Media Services • Communication Branch

s22(1)(a)(ii)

s22(1)(a)(ii) • MEDIA LINE +61 2 6136 8112

145 Ann Street, Brisbane QLD 4000 • Yuggera and Turrbal Country

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts

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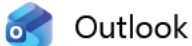


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OFFICIAL



Re: For advice Thursday AM - Journalism Assistance Fund [SEC=OFFICIAL]

From Media <media@infrastructure.gov.au>

Date Thu 23/07/2026 2:26 PM

To Verdon, Andrew <Andrew.Verdon@INFRASTRUCTURE.gov.au>

Cc s22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

Belated thank you so much team!

s22(1)(a)

OFFICIAL

From: Verdon, Andrew <Andrew.Verdon@INFRASTRUCTURE.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 23 July 2026 1:59 PM

To: Media <media@infrastructure.gov.au>

Cc: s22(1)(a)(ii)

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Subject: RE: For advice Thursday AM - Journalism Assistance Fund [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s22(1)(a)(ii)

Sorry for delay. Proposed response following on from your words.

- Through the Journalism Assistance Fund, the Government delivered \$67.6 million of support to more than 2,000 journalists across 185 Australian news publishers. This included \$25.4 million for over 90 regional media organisations.
- As with all Government grant processes, funding was awarded following assessment against eligibility criteria stated in the Grant Guidelines available at [Journalism Assistance Fund | business.gov.au](#).
- Grantees were required to execute a grant agreement and submit regular progress reports to the department, which are monitored closely to ensure the obligations of the grant are being met.
- As stated in the Grant Guidelines, the Commonwealth may recover grant funds if there is a breach of the grant agreement.
- The Journalism Assistance Fund is paid in 3 instalments over 3 years. This allows for any funds to be returned or subsequent payments to be withheld if required. These matters are considered on a case-by-case basis.

Regards
Andrew

OFFICIAL

From: Media <media@infrastructure.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 23 July 2026 12:51 PM
To: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: Verdon, Andrew <Andrew.Verdon@INFRASTRUCTURE.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii)
 s22(1)(a)(ii) Media <media@infrastructure.gov.au>
Subject: Re: For advice Thursday AM - Journalism Assistance Fund [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi team

Sorry to chase - the MO is keen for this info soon. I understand you were aiming for end of day but could we please have it ASAP?

For context, Media Watch has reached out about it.

Cheers

s22(1)(a)(ii)

s22(1)(a)(ii) • MEDIA LINE +61 2 6136 8112

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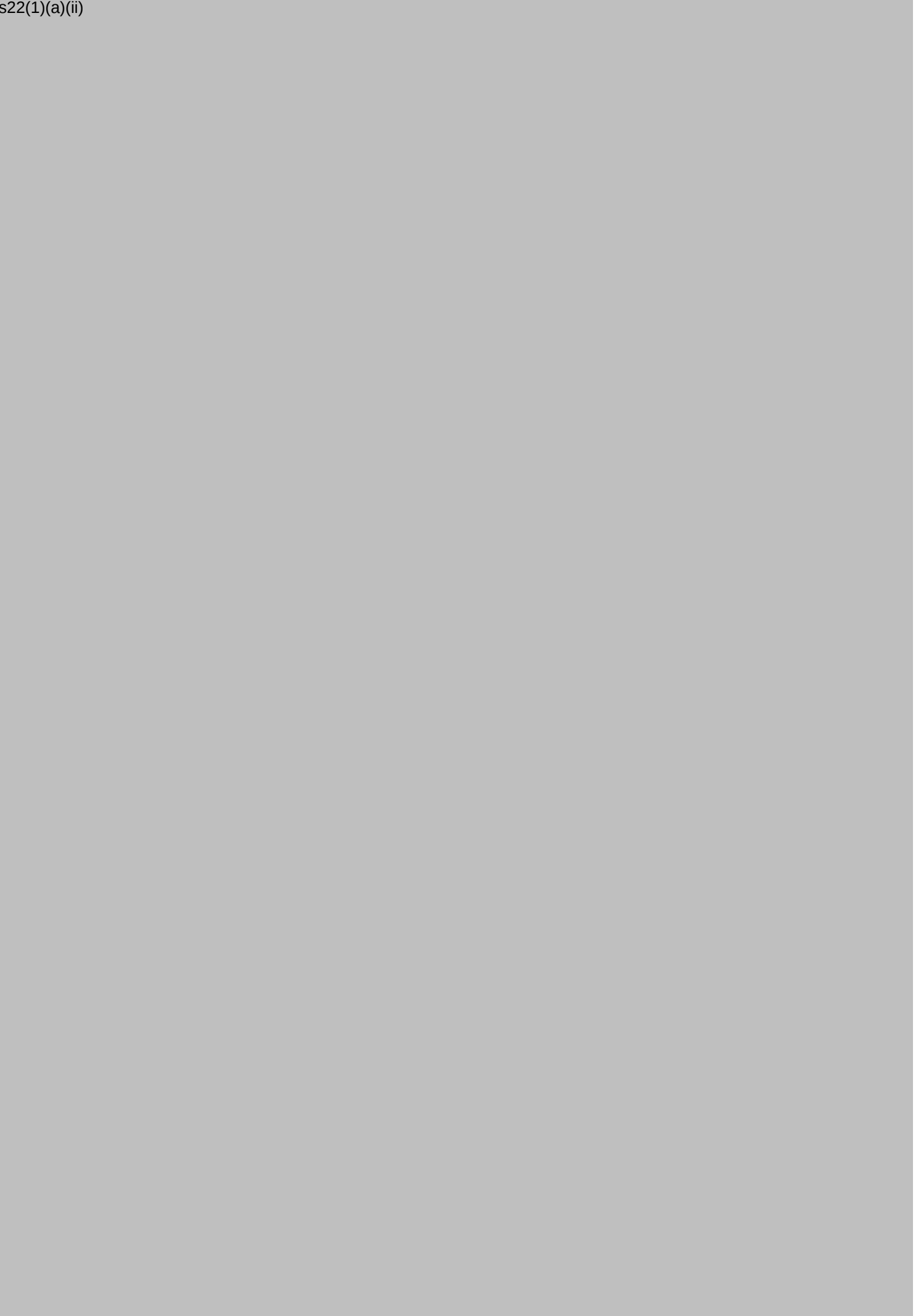
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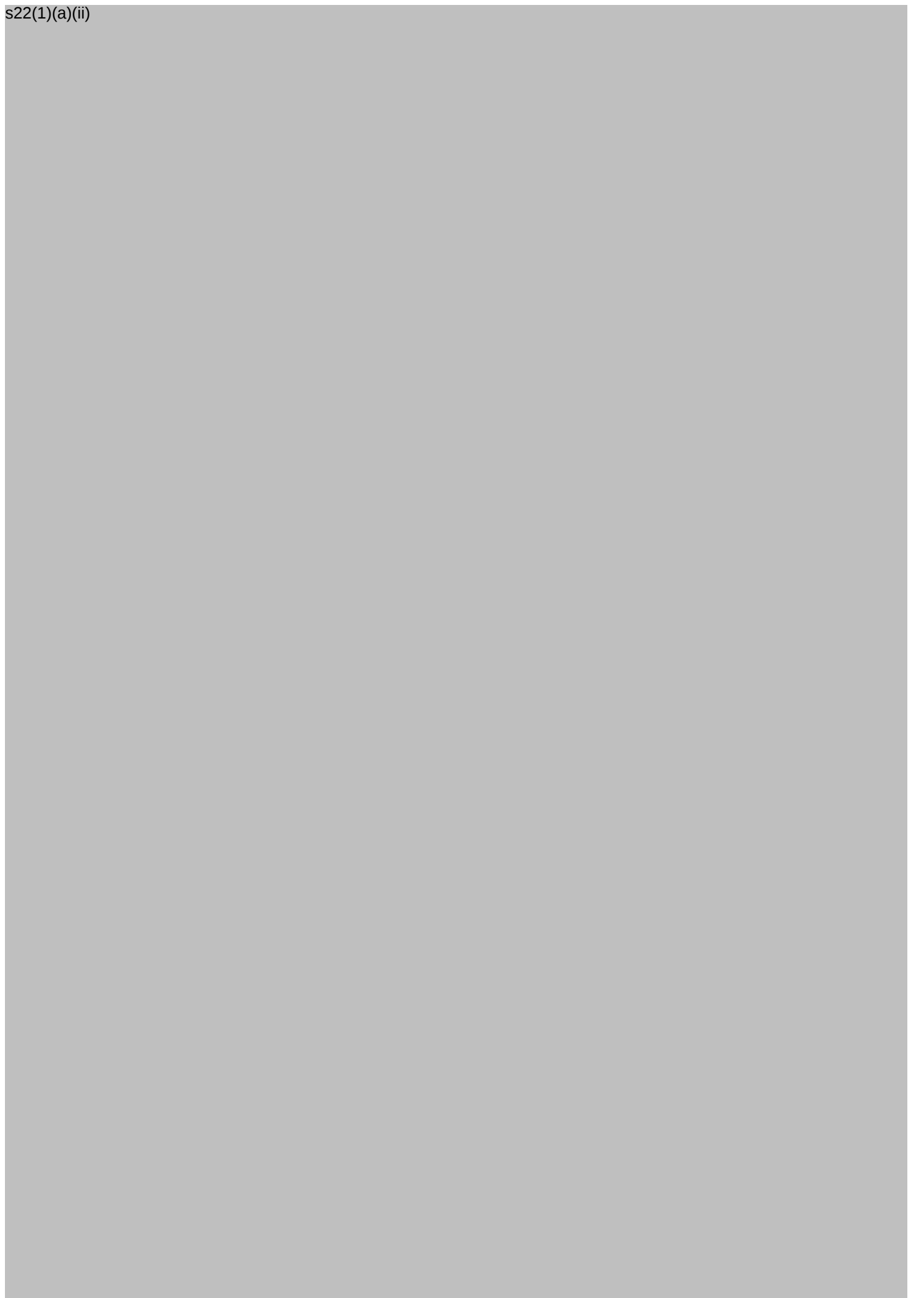


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s22(1)(a)(ii)

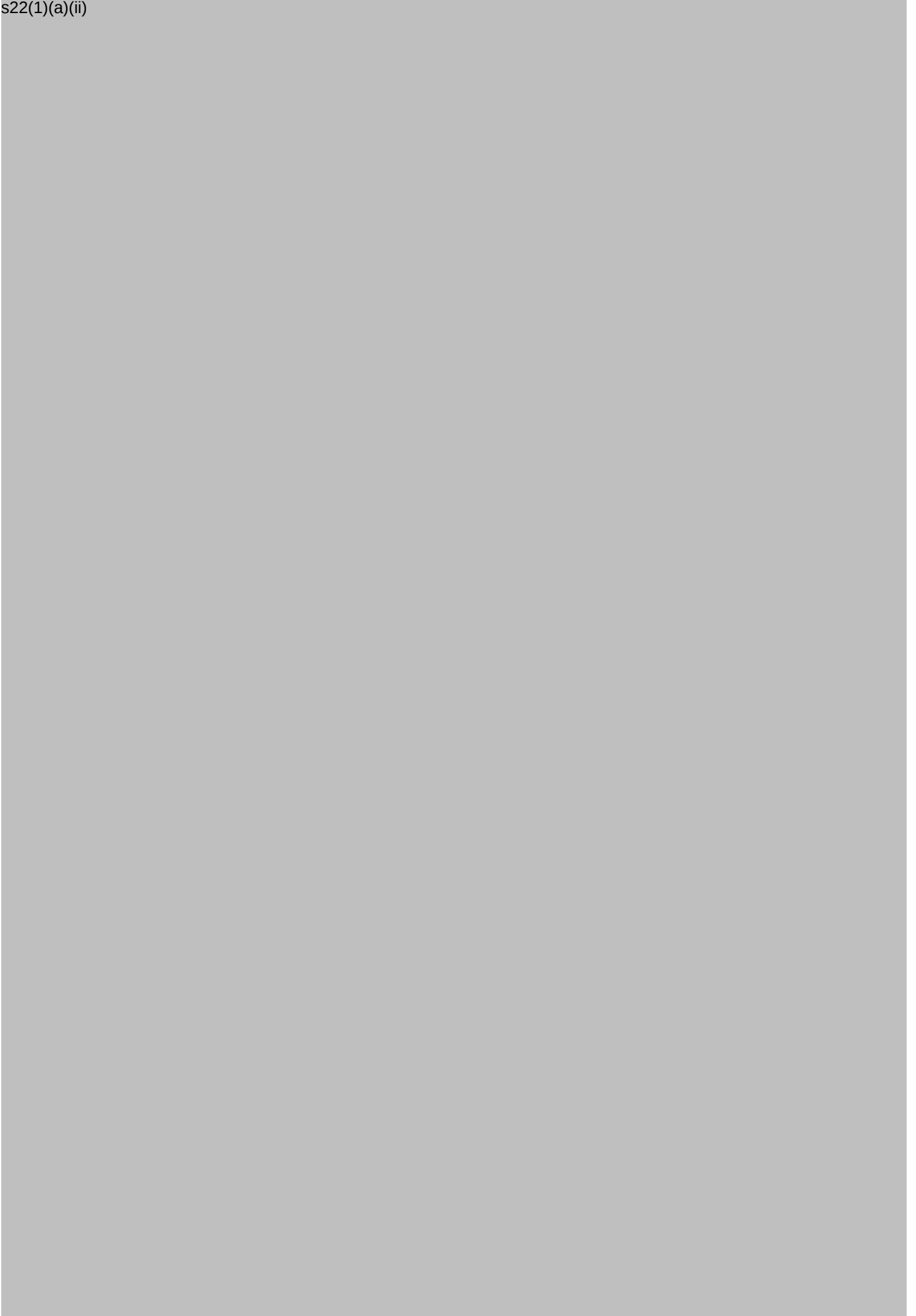


s22(1)(a)(ii)



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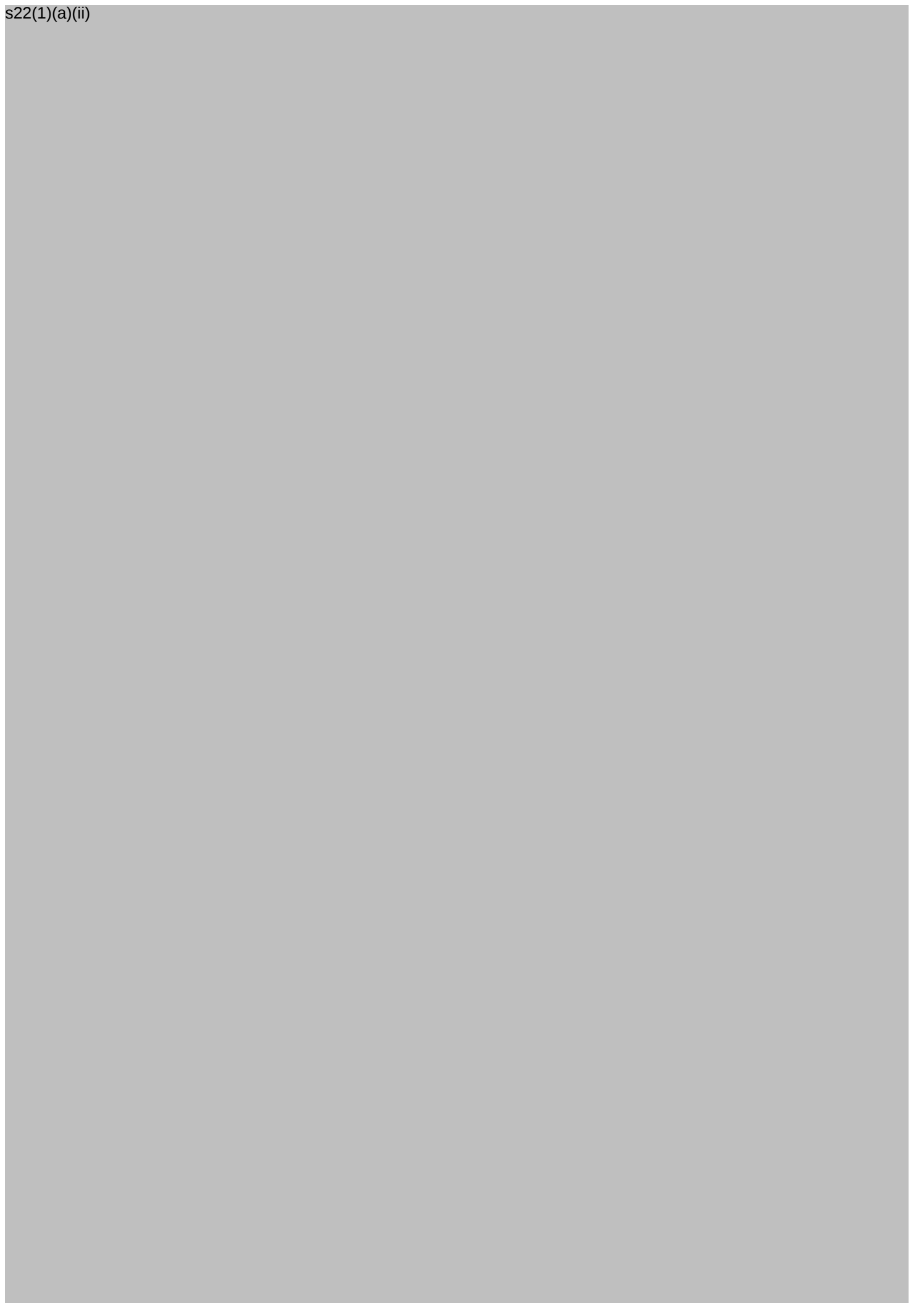
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s22(1)(a)(ii)



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Topic:	Journalism Assistance Fund
Journalist:	Unknown
Publication:	Media Watch
Background:	One News reporting on JAF recipients
Question(s):	Request for background on how JAF grants are assessed, what checks and balances are in place, what happens to funding if outlets close and how the department assures itself applications are genuine.
Response:	Through the Journalism Assistance Fund, the Government delivered \$67.6 million of support to more than 2,000 journalists across 185 Australian news publishers. This included \$25.4 million for over 90 regional media organisations. As with all Government grant processes, funding was awarded following assessment against eligibility criteria stated in the Grant Guidelines available at Journalism Assistance Fund business.gov.au. Grantees were required to execute a grant agreement and submit regular progress reports to the department, which are monitored closely to ensure the obligations of the grant are being met. As stated in the Grant Guidelines, the Commonwealth may recover grant funds if there is a breach of the grant agreement. The Journalism Assistance Fund is paid in 3 instalments over 3 years. This allows for any funds to be returned or subsequent payments to be withheld if required. These matters are considered on a case-by-case basis.
Attributable to:	Input to Minister Well's office

s22(1)(a)(ii)



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