

MP wants \$1m fines for 'redneck' media

A VICTORIAN Labor MP says the media should pay million-dollar fines and face a suspension of the right to broadcast or publish over blatantly untrue or misleading reports.

Steve Gibbons, who holds the federal seat of Bendigo, said "redneck extremist columnists and shock jocks" were destroying the media's "so-called social licence to operate".

But Liberal federal MP Paul Fletcher accused Labor of attacking the media because it was frustrated with the scrutiny it had faced for

Phillip Hudson
national political editor

bungled policies, such as pink batts and school halls, and the broken carbon tax pledge.

Mr Gibbons called for "penalties of commercial significance", as apologies, retractions and corrections were insufficient. He said Apple had been fined \$2.25 million for misleading consumers about its iPad, and internet service provider TPG had been fined \$2 million for misleading advertisements.

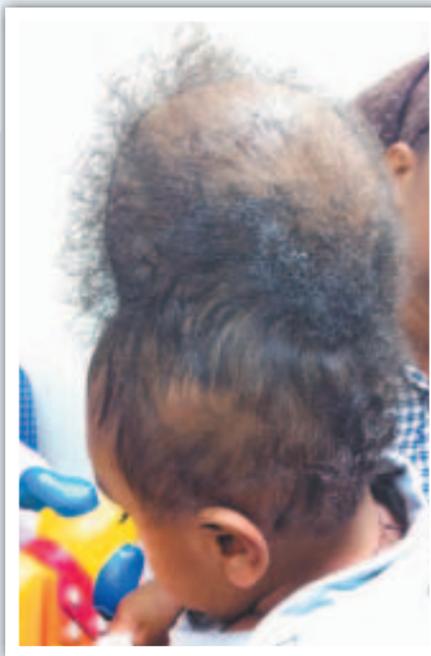
The Federal Government is considering the

Finkelstein report, which calls for statutory regulation of newspapers for the first time.

Meanwhile, Parliament's privileges committee said press gallery journalists could lose their ability to work at Parliament House, after reporter Michelle Grattan wrote a story in May about the committee's private deliberations concerning Labor MP Craig Thomson.

The press gallery committee said this was a "massive over-reaction to the politicians' own inability to keep secrets".

'Two months after now he is trying to



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- Bone is harvested from his skull, cut into strips and attached using around 50 absorbable screws and plates
- The bone will eventually grow and cover his skull

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NOTHING



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