

Barrie Cassidy

Veteran Australian political journalist

Barrie Cassidy is a veteran political journalist and has been the presenter of *Insiders*, ABC TV's political commentary program, since 2001, and *Offsiders*, which provides challenging, insightful, humourous debate about sport, since 2005.

Insiders has become the must-watch political news and interview program for all politicians and news enthusiasts alike. Each week, it features an interview with a senior politician as well as debate and discussion by a panel of experienced political journalists, predominantly drawn from the Canberra Press Gallery.

Barrie is regarded as of the nation's best and most experienced political journalists whose interviewing and analytical skills are second to none. These attributes, along with his sense of humour, have been the key to the success of the program.

Barrie spent his early years on regional papers and covered state politics until he moved to Canberra in 1979 to become the ABC's federal political correspondent for radio and television.

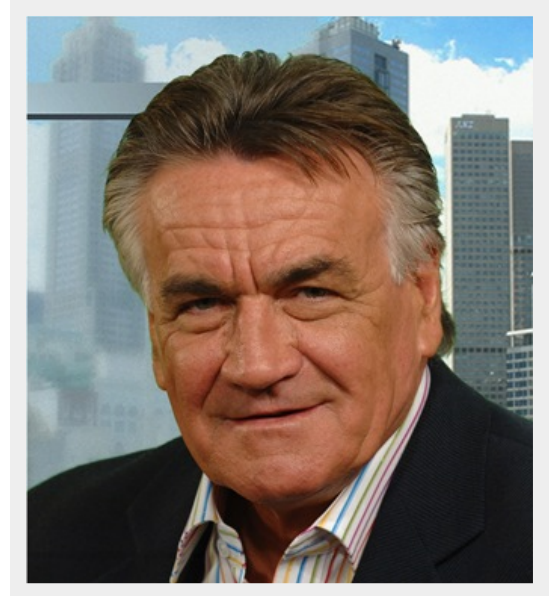
In 1986 Barrie was approached by former Prime Minister Bob Hawke's to become his senior press secretary - a role he held for four years - and his senior political adviser. He has worked overseas as a correspondent, covering the news in the major political capitals of the world. He was US correspondent for *The Australian* in Washington during the Clinton Administration then European correspondent for the ABC, based in Brussels.

Barrie returned to Australia to host *Meet The Press* and *The Last Shout* for Network Ten then joined the ABC as host on *The 7:30 Report*.

As well as being a political correspondent for ABC TV and a radio and political analyst, Barrie is a former president of the parliamentary press gallery in Canberra.

Barrie's first book, *Party Thieves*, was an analysis of the 2010 election campaign, a tumultuous eight months in politics, and charts the downfall of Kevin Rudd and Malcolm Turnbull.

In 2012, Barrie Cassidy won the Quill Award for Best Columnist/Blogger. The Quill Awards for Excellence in Victorian Journalism are the premier media awards in the state. His winning entry consisted of a number of pieces published on The Drum website, including 'Prisoner of war: my



father's story' and 'Leadership tussle: Rudd circles, Gillard stumbles'.

After more than 45 years as a journalist, Barrie has certainly earned the title of veteran and the respect that comes with it. It's no wonder that he is frequently in demand as a speaker at both political and non-political events.

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