



TIPS FOR WRITING LETTERS TO NEWSPAPERS

Letters to the editor can help to change public opinion. They are also watched by politicians. To maximise the chance of getting published:

- Focus on current topics and headline news stories.
- Stick to one aspect of the issue. Don't try to cover too much at once.
- Keep your letter under 200 words.
- Short and punchy style letters are more likely to be published
- Use positive, value-based language and messages (e.g. "People looking for a safe place to live" rather than "Asylum seekers". "The Australian Government must act with fairness and decency." rather than "Australia should stop committing human rights abuses.").
- Keep it intelligent! (Use clever language, clear logic and accurate statements)
- Don't say anything that could be considered defamatory. It won't be printed.
- Send your letter in the body of an email, not as an attachment.
- Use 'Letter to the Editor' as the subject heading.
- Send your letter in the morning. Editors will be looking to fill up the letters page for the next day, and can easily complete their task if they have letters arriving early.
- Include your name, address and phone number. Only your name and suburb will be published.
- Send each letter exclusively to one paper. If publications find your letter published in multiple papers, they may stop publishing you.
- Send letters to local papers.
- Also send letters to papers in other regions. Editors like to demonstrate a wide geographical readership.

Geelong Advertiser: yoursay@geelongadvertiser.com.au

Bellarine / Surf Coast Times: editor@timesnewsgroup.com.au

Herald Sun: hsletters@heraldsun.com.au or
<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/opinion/letter-to-the-editor>

The Age: letters@theage.com.au

Sydney Morning Herald: letters@smh.com.au

Daily Telegraph: <https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/opinion/letter-to-the-editor>

The Australian: letters@theaustralian.com.au

Addresses for other papers can be found here: <http://www.results.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Contacting-Newspapers.pdf>