



GROUP EDITORIAL POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

The Seven West Media Board recognises that news and current affairs services play an important role in keeping the community informed in a free and democratic society.

The Board shall therefore endeavour to implement and maintain an overarching editorial policy to produce high quality news and public affairs services and makes a commitment to be responsive to the needs and attitudes of its broad and diverse audience.

2. EDITORIAL POLICY

The Seven West Media Group Editorial Policy sets out a commitment to ethical practice in the creation and delivery of news and public affairs.

This Editorial Policy applies to:

- Newspapers (editorial and news);
- Television (news programs; news updates; and current affairs programmes); and
- Digital News Services (7plus (BVOD) News services & 7NEWS.com.au)

News and current affairs personnel working across all Seven West Media platforms are required to familiarise themselves with all applicable policies and codes of practice and use them as ethical guidelines in their work. All editorial, news and public affairs personnel must comply with the Australian legal framework and reporters, editors and producers should seek manager or legal advice wherever necessary.

3. KEY PRINCIPLES

- Ensure accuracy, fairness, and the consideration of all essential facts;
- Use accurate pictures and sound;
- Use accurate quotes and paraphrasing;
- Respect individuals and groups and not gratuitously emphasise age, colour, gender, race, ethnic or national origin, disability, religion or sexual preference;
- Be willing to make reasonable efforts to correct or clarify significant errors of fact in a timely manner;
- Ensure published news content is impartial¹.
- Use appropriate means to obtain material;
- Avoid plagiarism.

¹ Excludes current affairs and opinion

4. APPLICATION

The Group Editorial Policy requires that all editorial, news and current affairs personnel will accord with the recommendations and requirements of the codes of practice and any existing guidelines applicable to the medium in which they operate, including:

4.1 Newspapers: Print and digital (includes: *The West Australian*, all regional titles, *The Nightly* and *PerthNow*)

- Editorial Policy of West Australian Newspapers Ltd (the Publisher)
- Code of Ethics of the Australian Journalists' Association Section of the Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance
- Independent Media Council Code of Conduct for Print and Online Print Media Publishers
- Group Editorial Policy of Seven West Media

4.2 Television

- Free TV Commercial Television Industry Code of Practice – December 2015
- Code of Ethics of the Australian Journalists' Association Section of the Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance
- Group Editorial Policy of Seven West Media

4.3 Digital News Services (7plus (BVOD) News services & 7NEWS.com.au)

- Group Editorial Policy of Seven West Media
- Code of Ethics of the Australian Journalists' Association Section of the Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance

5. APPLICATION

Seven West Media values feedback from our audiences and readers. All news sources covered by the Group Editorial Policy are required to provide a channel for readers/audience feedback to register a complaint.

All complaints for:

- **Newspapers:** Print and digital (includes: *The West Australian*, all regional titles, *The Nightly* and *PerthNow*) should be directed to the make a complaint section of (<http://www.independentmediacouncil.com.au>)
- **Broadcast television:** Complaints should be submitted through the process outlined in section 7 of the Commercial Television Industry Code of Practice. (<https://www.freetv.com.au/contact-us/viewer-feedback-complaints/>)
- **Digital News Services:** (7plus (BVOD) News services & 7NEWS.com.au) can be made via our online portal at (<https://support.7news.com.au/hc/en-au/requests/new>)

Complaint content: All complaints must contain the following details, which must be accurate:

- Full name, email address, and contact phone number of the complainant,
- Time and date of publication of the material for which the complaint is being made,

- A brief description of the material,
- Nature of the complaint with regard to this Group Editorial Policy

A phone number to Seven West Media's registered office is available on the Contact Us site at www.sevenwestmedia.com.au, however verbal complaints will not receive a response.

6. ADJUDICATION OF COMPLAINTS

All complaints for

- news sources under 4.3 requiring a written response must be in writing and received within 30 days of publication of the relevant material.
- news sources under 4.1 within the period allowed by the Independent Media Council
- news sources under 4.2 within the period allowed by the Commercial Television Code of Practice)

We will endeavour to respond to complaints within 30 business days (or as determined by the Independent Media Council or Commercial Television Code of Practice).

Seven West Media will not respond to:

- Auto generated complaints
- Frivolous, vexatious, offensive, vulgar complaints
- Complaints received outside the 30-day period noted above
- Verbal complaints
- Complaints which do not contain the requirements outlined in section 6, under 'complaint content' heading
- Content outside of news and current affairs

