

Together for Treaty

Writing a letter to the editor

One way we can tip the scales is ensuring grassroots support for Treaty features proudly in our local newspapers and digital media by writing Letters to the Editor. You can write a brief letter in support of the Victorian Treaty process, or sharing why truth-telling and Treaty matters to you in your region.

Tips for writing your letter:

- **Keep your letter brief** around 150–200 words is ideal.
- **Be courteous** - Do not use aggressive or offensive language.
- **Keep it local** - Your letter is more likely to get printed and will have more impact if you talk about your local community.
- **Refer to a news article**. If the paper has reported on Treaty and truth-telling, refer to the story you read.
- **Proofread**. If there's one thing that will reduce your chances of being published, it's spelling and grammatical errors. Get a friend or family member to run their eyes over your letter before you send it off.
- **Don't give up!** If your letter isn't published, try again in the coming weeks.

What should I say?

The best message will be one that's personalised and written in your own voice. You can share a relevant story or personal experience. Before you start writing, think about what value or angle you want to base your letter around. Read over the *Conversation Guide* and the examples below to get some ideas: :

- **Community knows best:** Treaty is about putting First Nations people in the driver's seat so together they can make the decisions that affect their communities, culture and Country.
- **Unity and coming together:** We want a country that values all people, whether they have been here five years, five generations or five thousand generations.
- **Historic moment:** This is an Australia-first, and we have accepted the invitation to walk with First Peoples on the journey to Treaty.

How do I submit a letter?

The list below is not exhaustive! If your local paper is not listed below, you can generally find an email address or submission form on the paper's website. Smaller publications are often eager for content and you will have a higher likelihood of having your letter published.

Make sure you read the instructions and follow any directions provided before submitting.

Victoria	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Age: letters@theage.com.au• Herald Sun: use this online form• Geelong Advertiser: use this online form or contact yoursay@geelongadvertiser.com.au• Ballarat Courier: use this online form• Bendigo Advertiser: go here• The Standard (Warrnambool), go here
NSW	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sydney Morning Herald: letters@smh.com.au<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Guidelines here• Newcastle Herald, go here• Armidale Advertiser, go here• The Northern Daily Leader, go here
Queensland	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Courier Mail, go here.• The Cairns Post, go here.• The Gold Coast Bulletin, go here.• The Townsville Bulletin, go here.
Tasmania	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Advocate: go here• The Mercury: go here• The Examiner: go here
South Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Advertiser: go here
Western Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Western Australian: letters@wanews.com.au
Northern Territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NT News: use this form
ACT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Canberra Times, go here

