

# Newsroom Glossary

A collection of useful terms related to Australian newsrooms.

## AAP/Australian Associated Press

Independent Australian newswire and not-for-profit which supplies news to various media outlets.

## ABC/Australian Broadcasting Corporation

The national public broadcaster, funded by the federal government to provide news and entertainment to the Australian public.

## Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA)

Oversees media and communications legislation, regulations and codes of practice.

## Australian Community Media (ACM)

Media company made up of more than 160 regional and rural newspapers and community-based websites.

## Advertorial

Paid marketing material written in the style of a news item.

## Angle

The hook or aspect of a story which the journalist chooses to feature as the key or most newsworthy information.

## AP/Associated Press

International independent news agency supplying news to media outlets.

## Atmos

Background or ambient noise recorded on location.

## Autocue

Set up in front of the camera of a television studio to display a scrolling image of the newsreaders/presenters script.

## Background

Similar to off the record information, when a source provides journalists with information which is not to be attributed in a story but may provide them with context.

## Balance

Journalistic professional value of ensuring both sides of an argument are included and presented fairly.

## Bloomberg Terminal

Computer software system which provides business or finance journalists with real time news and market monitoring/data.

## Breaking news

Reports of new or developing events coming in while a TV or radio bulletin is live on air, or published online by a news organisation.



**Broadsheet**

Traditionally used to describe a large format newspaper, but also implies a less sensationalist style of newspaper compared to a tabloid.

**Bulletin**

A collection of news stories broadcast on TV or radio at a regular designated time e.g. the 6pm news.

**Byline**

The writer's name published at the beginning or end of a digital or print article.

**Chief of staff (COS)**

A senior journalist in the newsroom (typically broadcast — radio or TV) who supervises and oversees the work of the journalists e.g. assigning stories.

**Contempt of court**

Being disrespectful to or not adhering to the rules of the court e.g. publishing information under a suppression order.

**Copy**

Often refers to the written text of a story.

**Defamation**

The communication of a false statement about someone that unjustly harms their reputation.

**Death Knocking/door stepping**

When a journalist is sent to contact a relative or friend for information about someone who has just died.

**Desk editor**

The person in charge of content for a specific area of a publication e.g. sports editor, business editor etc.

**Editor**

The person in charge of the editorial content of an entire publication, or a specific topic area in the publication, see desk editor.

**Editorial**

An article written by the editor or giving the editor's/news organisation's opinion on an issue.

**Embargo**

A restriction on the earliest time that a media organisation can publish or broadcast a particular story or information.

**Exclusive**

A significant story or interview that no other news organisation has yet published.

**Fake news**

News that is untrue or does not include all the necessary information and facts.

**File**

Verb used to describe a journalist sending or submitting their report to the newsroom or studio.

**Freelance journalist/freelancer**

Not permanently employed by any organisation, but is contracted to work on specific projects/stories.



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## Grab

A selection of recorded sound used in a news item, generally a short section of an interview.

## Graphics

A visual representation or illustration of a story or event.

## Inverted pyramid

A structure used by journalists to present information in news items, where the most important or significant information is presented first, followed by the rest of the information in order of decreasing importance.

## Jargon

Special expressions or words used by a group that can be difficult for others to understand. Generally avoided by journalists.

## Lead

The opening information presented in an article or bulletin. Also refers to a tip off or starting point for a story.

## Masthead

The banner or nameplate at the top of a newspaper or magazine. Often used interchangeably with 'newspaper' when describing a specific publication.

## NCA NewsWire

News Corp Australia's own newswire service. It is an independent unit from the company's many publications, which it services.

## News conference

Generally refers to a regular (e.g. daily) meeting of editors/chief-of-staff to discuss and determine the upcoming news items. Not to be confused with press conference.

## Newsworthy

Aspects of a story or event that give it current value or significance.

## Newsroom

The office where journalists work and produce news.

## Off the record

Refers to information given to journalists on the condition that it is not to be used in a story.

## Op-ed

Opinionated story written by a journalist, generally well known.

## Out

Noted end for a broadcast story so presenters and producers have a cue for when the package will end.

## Package

A pre prepared story for a TV news bulletin, including interviews, vision and sound, and an introduction for the newsreader.

## Paywall

Restriction on content requiring people who wish to access it to subscribe or pay a fee to the media organisation.

## Picture editor

Selects and commissions the images to be published.

## Piece to camera

When a journalist presents a certain part of the news directly to the camera on location.



**Pitch**

To suggest a story idea to a journalist or editor.

**Popping**

Describes unwanted sounds picked up on certain consonants when a speaker is too close to a microphone.

**Presenter**

The person who reads the news in a TV or radio bulletin (called the 'anchor' in the US).

**Press conference/'presser'**

Event to allow journalists from various media organisations to gather together and ask questions of a company or individual in the news e.g. a politician.

**Press release/media release**

Written information (often including images, statements or video footage) sent to the media to provide an organisation's view of an issue or promote their products or services.

**Scoop**

See exclusive.

**Subeditor**

Proofs stories for grammar or factual errors etc., and often writes headlines and captions.

**Source**

Where journalists are finding their information for a story, often a person but they may be anonymous.

**Syndicate/syndication**

In the media this refers to the selling of news material for use by other publications or outlets. In Australia, AAP is the largest national news syndication service.

**Tabloid**

Traditionally a more compact newspaper than a broadsheet, it is used to describe news publications that typically use short, often sensationalised stories with lots of photos.

**Talent**

This is often used to describe the guest who will be featuring in a segment on-air (radio or TV), for example a celebrity, expert or spokesperson.

