

# **The Brief Policy**

Maintaining high quality content and standards  
of impartiality

<b>Last review</b>	<b>15 May 2017</b>
<b>Next review</b>	<b>30 January 2019</b>

*This policy was written by Sarah Li Yee Lien (Director – Publications 2017; The Brief EIC 2016), Nick Owczarek (The Brief EIC 2017) and Patrick Barkachi (Secretary and Acting President 2016; The Brief EIC 2015).*

## **1. Introduction**

*The Brief* is the flagship student-run publication of the Macquarie University Law Society (MULS) with several print edition magazines released each year, as well as an ongoing online edition, published on a website and Facebook page (collectively referred to as 'the publication').

The publication is managed by an Executive Officer (The Brief Editor-in-Chief) ('EIC').

The EIC is responsible for coordinating a subcommittee of volunteer student writers, subeditors and contributors who are members of MULS and/or students of the Faculty of Business and Economics.

Coordination of the subcommittee involves commissioning, editing and publishing content submitted by writers and contributors, as well as delegating some subediting to volunteers within the subcommittee for the print edition magazine.

The EIC, along with the Director (Publications), shall engage a designer, whether affiliated with MULS or otherwise, to design pages and set out written content for the print edition magazine.

## **2. Purpose**

To promote consistent high quality content, to ensure the publication remains independent, and to keep the publication's content focused in order to maintain its quality as a source of news, opinion and analysis.

To establish guidelines under which the EIC and any appointed Deputy Editors and/or Online Editors (collectively referred to as 'the Editors') will be held accountable in regards to their conduct in the commissioning, editing and publishing of editorial content, as well as to guarantee the integrity of the publication.

To clarify who owns the intellectual property of content in the publication.

## **3. Editorial Policy**

The Editors have autonomy over the content which the Editors commission and choose to publish, as well as the way in which they edit content. They invariably set the tone of the publication and frame its image towards readers in MULS, outside of MULS within Macquarie University, stakeholders (i.e. the Macquarie Law School, sponsors of MULS and other relevant bodies) and the general public.

The reputation and integrity of the publication is important to the MULS brand and must be upheld.

As such, the Editors must commit to:

- Working in the best interests of the MULS student body, ensuring there is ample opportunity for all willing MULS students to have content published;
- Ensuring representation of the wide range of perspectives, viewpoints and opinions held by the MULS student body, including ensuring the subediting process preserves the opinions of individual writers;
- Ensuring the impartiality of the publication, by recognising the importance of balance and the need to cover issues fairly and honestly, without any intention to mislead or misrepresent, or to promote an ulterior agenda;
- Protecting the independence of the publication, ensuring that any vested interests and/or affiliations, whether political, business or otherwise, do not interfere with the way in which editorial content is normally commissioned, edited and published, and that any interests and/or affiliations are disclosed where appropriate; and
- Recognising and conceding when the publication has erred, correcting the record when necessary in a timely manner by either publishing a clarification, an official correction or issuing an official apology.

Editors should promote and encourage freedom of opinion and ideas as an essential part of ensuring the representation of the wide range of perspectives, viewpoints and opinions held by the MULS student body.

Editors should also regularly emphasise the importance of impartiality and independence to volunteer student writers in the subcommittee, as well as emphasise the importance of preserving the opinions of individual writers to delegated subeditors.

The EIC is accountable for all decisions collectively made by the Editors, and is responsible for all content published.

#### **4. Content**

Topics published by the publication should fall into or relate to the following categories:

- Law and legal affairs
- National, state and world politics
- Business, economics, finance and general commerce
- Macquarie University students

The Editors may commission and publish content not relating to the above list on occasion. In exercising this discretion Editors should be aware of the need to keep the publication's content focused.

The Director (Publications) may retract an article from publication if it clashes with the branding and image of MULS.

The MULS Board may retract an article from publication if it brings MULS and its internal and external stakeholders into conflict. This must be an independent decision of the Board and reasons for retracting an article must be documented or minuted.

In all other instances the Editors hold full discretion, in line with this policy and the MULS Constitution, as to the content published by the publication.

## **5. Copyright Policy**

Content published by *The Brief* is protected by copyright. Except as permitted under the *Copyright Act 1968* (Cth), no part of this publication may be reproduced or distributed by any process, electronic or otherwise, without the specific written permission of the copyright author, including but not limited to writers and interviewees. Neither may be stored electronically in any form whatsoever without such permission.

Copyright authors are not constrained from publishing their works in other publications.

Examples of what may constitute a breach of copyright include:

- Failing to remove content as requested by the author within a reasonable time period
- Creating new content derived from the original work which changes the author's intended meaning and purpose
- Selling an article for money

## **6. Breaches of the Editorial and Copyright Policy**

If you believe the Editorial and/or Copyright Policy have been breached, please contact the EIC in writing at [thebrief@mulS.org](mailto:thebrief@mulS.org).

If the response from the EIC is not satisfactory, please contact the Director (Publications) in writing at [publications@mulS.org](mailto:publications@mulS.org).

## 7. Acknowledgement

By signing this Policy document for *The Brief*, you indicate that you have read, understood, and agree to abide by the Editorial and Copyright Policy.

This document is to be signed by the Editors before the beginning of their respective of terms.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

## 8. History

Date	Approved
15 May 2017	2017 MULS Board: Rhiannon Bell (President), Millicent Watt (Secretary), Marlow Bakous (Treasurer), Lachlan Mack (Director – Career Engagement), Sarah Li Yee Lien (Director – Publications), Tahmyna Rad (Director – Social Justice) and Matthew Blundell (Director – Events).