



THE WIRELESS INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA

WIA Policy on Publication of Contentious Material in WIA Publications

Date 08/10/2017

The Board, as Publisher has responsibility to ensure that the content of all WIA publications are appropriate and meet all the conditions set out in the WIA Constitution, the Corporations Act, and the Privacy Act, as well as any other relevant legislation. WIA publications include both print and electronic publications.

In order to assist the Board to meet those requirements, the following principles have been adopted. Notes expanding on some of the principles are included.

- Material required to be published under the Constitution or the Corporations Act must be authorised by the Secretary after agreement by the Board.
- Material shall not be defamatory. Material should focus on particular issues, and not criticise individuals (Note 1).
- Material should be for a proper purpose and in the interest of members.
- Material of a contentious nature must be approved by the Board prior to inclusion in contents intended for a particular issue. This includes Over To You letters. Contentious material is material that could have legal consequences, defames or criticises individuals, or which a reasonable person would deem to be not in the best interests of the WIA or its members.
- Material submitted by an individual, a group or club which promotes a cause shall be treated as paid advertising.
- The WIA will avoid the publication of material during an election period that could affect the outcome of the election. The President's Comment published during the election period shall not discuss contentious issues or criticise or promote members standing for election.
- The Board may seek legal advice on behalf of the Institute prior to material being published or distributed through *Amateur Radio* magazine or any WIA publication.

Expanded Notes:

(1.) Risk of defamation or other legal action

The WIA has a duty of care to avoid *Amateur Radio* magazine (or any WIA publication) being used as a vehicle to disseminate material that is, or may be seen, to be:

- a) defamatory of individuals, groups, businesses or organisations
- b) contains overt or covert threats

- c) harassing in nature or intent
- d) vilifies any person or group.

This applies to *all* content such as, but not limited to, advertising, technical or general articles, news, columns and OTY letters.

Any material that the Editor and/or the Publications Committee judges to pose such risks can be:

- a) returned to the author/s as not suitable for publication, with an accompanying brief explanation;
- b) referred to the WIA Secretary or President for consideration by the Board, with the author/s advised of the action by the Publications Committee. The WIA Secretary has the responsibility of subsequently advising the author/s of the Board's decision.

(2.) Contentious Material.

- a) The Board shall determine the suitability of the material for publication at its next scheduled Board meeting.
- b) If publication is consequently approved, those affected by the contentious material shall be given the opportunity to respond in the same issue or the same publication. The original material may be held over to allow time for a response.

Note:

Advertising material accepted for publication is subject to the above guidelines and must be consistent with the aims and objects of the WIA and the interests of the Amateur Radio community.



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President
The Wireless Institute Of Australia