

Victorian Aboriginal News (VAN) Editorial Content Sharing Policy

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Publisher: Victorian Aboriginal News

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1. Purpose and Philosophy

Victorian Aboriginal News (VAN) is dedicated to independent, community-grounded reporting, truth-telling, and amplifying First Nations voices across Victoria and beyond. To ensure our stories, analysis, and broadcasts reach the widest possible audience, VAN makes its editorial content—including written articles, audio packages/podcasts, and video productions—available for republishing and broadcast under the strict terms set out below.

This policy balances broad public access with rigorous safeguards around Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP), editorial context, and cultural safety.

2. Permitted Use & Scope of Licence

VAN grants non-exclusive permission to external media outlets, community organisations, educational bodies, and digital platforms to republish, rebroadcast, or host VAN content, provided all conditions in this policy are met in full.

- **Open Access Only:** VAN content must be published freely accessible to the public. It may never be placed behind a paywall, registration wall, donation gate, or members-only tier.
- **Non-Commercial/No Direct Monetisation:** Content cannot be sold, syndicated, or directly monetised. Outlets may not sell access to individual articles, audio files, or video streams.

- **No Sub-Licensing:** Permission is granted solely to the specific republishing outlet. You may not re-license, syndicate, or distribute VAN content to third-party wire services, content brokers, or aggregators (e.g., Apple News, MSN, Yahoo News).
- **AI Training Exclusion:** No VAN material (text, audio recordings, transcripts, or video) may be scraped, ingested, or processed for the purpose of training commercial artificial intelligence or machine learning models.

3. Cultural Integrity & ICIP Protections

Much of VAN's work involves cultural knowledge, lived community experiences, and sacred histories. Republishers must uphold the highest standards of cultural respect:

- **Inherent Cultural Rights:** All Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP) remains the property of the relevant traditional custodians, storytellers, and communities. Republishing grants no ownership or ongoing rights to cultural material.
- **Deceased Persons Notices:** Where VAN content includes a cultural safety notice (such as warnings regarding the names, images, or voices of deceased persons), the republisher must prominently include the identical warning at the top of the article or before the audio/video broadcast.
- **Restricted / Sensitive Material:** Content designated as gender-specific, community-restricted, or culturally sensitive must not be altered, separated from its framing, or published outside the context agreed upon with knowledge holders.
- **Original Consent:** Consent given by interviewees and community elders to VAN does not automatically transfer to third-party secondary projects (e.g., documentaries, books, or campaigns). Content may only be republished in its original editorial context.

4. Prohibited Association & Advertising Standards

VAN maintains an unwavering commitment to community wellbeing. VAN content must never appear alongside or be monetised by commercial advertising or sponsorship promoting:

1. Alcohol, tobacco, e-cigarettes/vaping, or illicit substances.
2. Gambling, betting platforms, lotteries, or wagering services.
3. Payday loans, high-interest consumer credit, or predatory financial products.
4. Weapons, firearms, or adult entertainment.
5. Partisan political campaigning or party political donations.
6. Commercial extractive or mining operations operating in direct conflict with traditional custodians.

Note for ad-supported websites: If your platform runs programmatic advertising, you are required to implement ad exclusions (tag/category blocks) on pages hosting VAN content to ensure no ads from the categories above are displayed.

5. Attribution & Integrity Requirements

Republishers must provide prominent, transparent credit to ensure our journalists, producers, and contributors receive proper acknowledgement:

- Byline & Publication Credit: The original author/producer's byline must appear clearly at the beginning. The article or media player must state:
- "Originally published by [Victorian Aboriginal News](#)." (with an active, direct hyperlink to the original VAN story page or homepage).

- No Editorial Alteration: Articles, transcripts, audio segments, and video packages must be published in full. You may not:
 - Edit, trim, condense, or rearrange quotes or segments without prior written approval from VAN.
 - Alter the headline or captions in a way that sensationalises, distorts, or changes the editorial meaning or cultural framing.
 - Extract standalone audio bites or video clips for separate editorial use without express consent.
- Third-Party Rights Clearance: VAN's licence covers only material produced and owned by VAN. Where an article contains third-party licensed photography, agency images, or music, the republisher is responsible for verifying or clearing those rights independently.

6. Revocation of Permission & Takedown Protocol

VAN reserves the absolute right to revoke republishing permission at any time, for any piece of content, without requirement to provide reasons or explanation.

- Immediate Cessation: Upon receiving written or electronic notice from VAN (via email or official correspondence) withdrawing permission, the republisher must:
 - Remove the specified article, audio, or video from all public-facing platforms, websites, apps, and feeds within 24 hours.
 - Remove all associated social media posts, teaser clips, or embedded links under the republisher's control.
 - Confirm in writing that the removal has been completed.

7. Enquiries and Approvals

For requests seeking exceptions, broadcast syndication partnerships, or written approval for editorial adaptations, contact:

- Victorian Aboriginal News Pty Ltd
- Email: charles@vicaboriginalnews.com.au
- Website: www.vicaboriginalnews.com.au