

# Letters to the editor

Readers also contribute to the newspapers, usually as a letter to the editor. Often letters to the editor are a response to articles that have appeared in the paper. Sometimes they are generated by broader ongoing debate on a particular issue. Occasionally, a reader may choose to write to the paper in order to highlight their concerns about an issue that they feel deserves more media attention.

Anyone can write a letter to the editor. Some letters to the editor may be published in full; others may be shortened to the essential comments only.

Generally, letters to the editor tend to be emotive. This is because people who make the effort to write them usually do so because they feel strongly about an issue.

## PERFECT PARKING A MYTH

**W**here were the parking inspectors last Thursday? ('Parks, parking and performance', 12 January)? I can tell you where they were. They were nabbing locals down at the beach.

Many parents of young children were unaware of the recent changes to parking laws. Rather than give a first warning the parking inspectors saw fit to fine and clamp many family drivers.

Is there no compassion left in our society for families who just want a cheap day out at the beach?

So yes, these revenue raising ratbags were around. Just not in the city booking those who can afford to flout the laws.

Michelle Dunn, Warren's Ridge

Evidence given sharply and clearly.

Language informal and colloquial.

Identifies consequences of behaviours clearly.

Reference to newspaper article.

Gets directly to the point because words are limited.

Rhetorical question for impact.

## Understanding tone

Letters to the editor vary in their tone and approach. It is important, therefore, that we are able to critically evaluate the wide array of opinions that readers express in letters to the editor.

### LET THE GAMES BEGIN

**R**emember the glory days of 1956 when Melbourne was the centre of the sporting world? Remember the thrill of Sydney and the way we were united on the night Cathy Freeman won the 400 metres?

The benefits that an Olympic Games brings to the host country far outweigh the financial cost of hosting. The immeasurable benefits cannot be bought with money.

Isn't it time that a new generation of Australians had the opportunity to show our great nation to the world? Isn't it time that this great sporting country stood up once more? We can be the best. We have run the best games. We have produced the best athletes. And we will provide a world class event. We must support our new bid to bring the Olympics to Australia.

Elizabeth May, Williamstown