

Job Description

17 April 2026

Digital Journalist - Canberra News and Current Affairs

Level 3

Reports to: News Editor or delegate

Direct reports to this position: N/A

SBS Values, Vision and Purpose

The Digital Journalist - Canberra is responsible for undertaking their work in a way that reflects SBS's Charter, Vision and Values and complies with relevant SBS policies, procedures and practices. At SBS, we expect you to be audience obsessed, be bold and brave, embrace difference, participate fully and ensure that we look out for one another. We are all working together to fulfil SBS's purpose and create a more cohesive society.

Division Purpose – NACA

The principal purpose of SBS News and Current Affairs is to provide the most accurate, balanced and detailed coverage of international and major domestic news across all platforms.

SBS News and Current Affairs delivers depth and analysis to help audiences understand often complex issues, in addition to showcasing stories from within Australia's many communities that reflect constructively on multiculturalism and Indigenous affairs.



Role Purpose

The Digital Journalist covers and produces Canberra/Australian political content on native SBS properties, such as the website and app, and third-party platforms. The role operates within the News and Current Affairs Division and will be expected to file beyond News Digital, including but not limited to Digital Video and linear World News.

The Digital Journalist works under general supervision and often operates with a reasonable level of autonomy, applying sound editorial judgement across a range of political coverage, including complex or sensitive issues. The role is responsible for delivering timely daily news while also pursuing original and distinctive stories that align with SBS' Charter.

The role contributes to editorial discussions and forward planning, drawing on experience and knowledge of the Australian political landscape, and supports coordinated, cross-platform coverage consistent with SBS News' reputation as one of Australia's most trusted and balanced news publishers.

Main Responsibilities

Reporting to the Canberra Bureau Manager and Digital News Editor or designated lead, the Digital Journalist takes a digital first approach to producing Australian political content to deliver against the SBS Charter and Corporate Strategy.

Journalism and Content Production

The Digital Journalist – Canberra will:

- Cover political and politically linked content for SBS News digital, writing breaking and daily news stories, as well as undertaking complex and sensitive articles, applying sound editorial judgement to ensure accuracy, balance and clarity.
- Generate, develop and progress original story ideas across a broad range of political topics, including identifying unique angles and opportunities for deeper or under-reported stories, with particular reference to making stories accessible and engaging to audiences
- Pitch story ideas across an array of topics including, but not limited to, national politics, foreign policy, immigration and defence, demonstrating initiative and awareness of the evolving political landscape.
- File accurate and engaging multi-format content, including digital copy (news articles, features, explainers, live blog contributions), data-led journalism and visual content. This may also include scripting and filming digital video for SBS properties and third-party platforms.
- Deliver reporting that provides context and insight to help audiences understand complex political issues.
- Demonstrate the ability to manage competing priorities, balancing breaking and daily news demands with the pursuit of more distinctive or in-depth stories.



- Draw on and maintain an existing political contacts network, and continue to develop it to support reporting and sourcing.
- Contribute to regular news planning, flagging relevant upcoming political events and working with the News Editor/Deputy News Editor on forward coverage plans
- Contribute to editorial discussions and forward planning, identifying upcoming events and opportunities for coverage.
- Maintain a strong awareness of the Australian political landscape and emerging issues to inform story development and planning.
- Work within established editorial frameworks and direction set by senior editors, including the Chief Political Correspondent, escalating complex or sensitive editorial decisions where required.

Digital Skills and Delivery

The Digital Journalist – Canberra will:

- Ensure content is engineered for performance including the use of multimedia assets, graphics, optimised headlines, SEO, and optimum content length, in consultation with the News Editor and other senior members of the team
- Liaise with the News Editor and Deputy News Editor to commission design-led lead images when appropriate; consider the visual presentation of articles when publishing and graphics and animations are delivered in a timely fashion
- Understand the power of onward journeys and select relevant content to augment a written story including video assets and embeds, read more links, podcast embeds.
- Provide a visually rich experience for the audience, including collection and commissioning of lead images and seek opportunities for data and story visualisation within content
- Demonstrate understanding of value and use of digital metrics, monitor story performance via tools such as Chartbeat and Adobe, draw on performance data to inform pitches and angles, engage in performance feedback.
- Use in house and third-party tools such as such as Canva, Flourish, to provide a visually engaging experience
- Be tuned into developments in digital publishing and content trends, with a special reference to political coverage, to contribute ideas to continued innovation
- Work independently under general supervision, exercising initiative and judgement in identifying and progressing story opportunities.
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Team Skills and Responsibilities

- Passion for daily news coverage, strong journalistic and copy writing skills, digitally astute, empathetic, adaptable to changing priorities and a fast-paced news environment
- Proactive communicator with NACA, ALC and NITV team members, taking a collaborative mindset to story coverage
- Contribute to editorial discussions and forward planning, supporting the delivery of coverage in line with direction set by senior editors, including the Chief Political Correspondent
- Be available to perform duties during irregular hours and travel as required.

Minimum Requirements



- **Demonstrated experience in journalism, including reporting and/or producing for a publisher or broadcaster, with strong knowledge of digital production, the digital landscape and audiences.**
- **Demonstrated ability to deliver complex or sensitive reporting, applying sound editorial judgement.**
- **Demonstrated ability to manage competing priorities, balancing breaking and daily news demands with the pursuit of distinctive or in-depth stories.**
- **The ability to initiate and develop story ideas from a variety of sources with a minimum of supervision.**
- **A thorough knowledge of national and international affairs as well as the current Australian political landscape.**
- **An understanding of journalistic ethics and media law.**
- **An understanding of the aims and objectives of SBS, including the SBS Charter.**
- **Ability to make data-informed editorial and content decisions.**
- **Well-developed written and verbal communication skills, with strong interpersonal and team skills.**
- **An existing political contacts network is an advantage**

Team fit

Passion for daily news coverage, strong journalistic and copywriting skills, digitally astute, empathetic, highly organised and adaptable, able to take initiative and work autonomously, collaborative communicator.

- **Financial accountability (Provide the budget/amount responsible for)**
\$0

Key relationships with other roles and external stakeholders

- SBS News Digital Team
- Canberra Bureau, World News team
- Managing Editor, National Editor – SBS World News
- ALC and NITV Editorial Leads and staff

Key Capability		
Capability	Level	Behaviour
<u>Collaboration</u>	Self	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Displays a genuine intention to work co-operatively with others • Offers to help others achieve common goals • Makes an effort to understand the goals of others • Shares all relevant or useful information
<u>Communication</u>	Self	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses appropriate grammar • Uses appropriate vocabulary • Uses a suitable tone • Speaks at a suitable pace



		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Speaks clearly using minimal language• Changes language to suit audience• Provides full responses to questions• Provides accurate responses to questions
<u>Decision Making</u>	Self	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Makes decisions in situations that are well defined• Makes decisions that impact own area of responsibility• Weighs up alternatives according to their likely impact• Weighs up alternatives according to their likely impact on others• Makes decisions in a timeframe appropriate to the work goal• Readily makes decisions when faced with unfamiliar circumstances
<u>Interpersonal Sensitivity</u>	Self	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is attentive towards others and seeks to understand the viewpoint of others (in terms of perspectives, attitudes, interests and position)• Recognises the needs and motivations of others• Is sensitive to verbal cues in one-on-one interactions• Is sensitive to non-verbal cues in one-on-one interactions• Understands implicit and explicit emotions• Is respectful towards others & provides a reassuring presence
<u>Relationship Building</u>	Self	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establishes a connection with others• Builds friendly, warm relationships that are mutually beneficial• Maintains ongoing relationships that are mutually beneficial• Shares relevant information with others• Recognises the value of building and maintaining relationships• Helps others achieve common goals• Openly communicates with others

Workplace Health & Safety

In relation to Work Health & Safety, you must comply with your safety responsibilities as detailed in relevant Acts, Regulations, Standards, Codes of Practice and the SBS Safety Management System (SMS)

All workers are required to:

- Take reasonable care for own safety and safety of others
- Cooperate with policies and procedures and directions from management with regards to health and safety
- Where hazards are identified, report them to line manager and take corrective action where able
- Report all work related incidents to line manager within 24 hours of occurrence
- Ensure workers, visitors and clients are :
 - made aware of their WH&S responsibilities
 - have received adequate safety induction and other WH&S information, instruction and training to enable them to conduct their work safely
 - follow safe work practices