



Devil's Advocate Submission Guidelines

About us

Financial Counselling Victoria (FCVic) is the peak body and professional association for over 250 financial counsellors throughout Victoria. Financial counsellors provide free information, support and advocacy to Victorians in financial difficulty, and assist over 60,000 people annually.

FCVic plays a key role in sector professionalization, support and development, and advocating for policy change to improve outcomes for vulnerable Victorians.

The Devil's Advocate (DA) is the monthly sector-wide email newsletter of FcVic. Subscription to the DA is free, and the published editions are available via [our website](#).

The DA publishes articles on a variety of subjects relevant to financial counselling, community services and consumer advocacy.

Purpose

1. To showcase the financial counselling sector to the wider social and community services sector, industry (banks, energy, telcos, debt collection), government, ombudsman, community legal sector and other stakeholders.
2. To address wider consumer and community issues that impact on financial counselling clients
3. To promote the wider social and community services, emergency relief, community legal and health sectors and their alignment with financial counselling.

Target Audience

The primary audience is financial counsellors, community lawyers and community sector organisations. The secondary audience is government, external dispute resolution bodies, regulators, ombudsman schemes, industry bodies and government

Contributions

The DA accepts contributions from financial counsellors, community lawyers, community sector organizations, government, external dispute resolution bodies, regulators, ombudsman schemes and industry bodies. We accept articles that:

- fit the tone and style of the newsletter
- are clearly targeted at FcVic's core readership, and
- are not in direct conflict with the objectives of FcVic.

As a state-wide publication, we are primarily interested in issues that are pertinent to the work of Victoria's financial counsellors. This includes articles with a national focus relevant in Victoria, or local issues with state-wide implications.



FCVic reserves the right to edit the article for purposes of length and grammar, without altering the intent of the article.

FCVic is open to discussing the submission of regular content, dedicated columns or material across multiple issues. FCVic reserves the right to withdraw this agreement at any time.

Please note we do not pay for articles.

If we use your material for publication, you are free to have it published elsewhere following publication in the DA.

All submissions are subject to editorial oversight.

Process of Submitting Articles

1. Contact FCVic to discuss your article. Please provide an outline of the story angle, writing tone, word length, and sources and whether or not photographic and/or illustrative material is to be included
2. Submit article to deadline (20th of each month)
3. Receipt of article is acknowledged by email
4. Article is edited and/or requests for changes are made, if necessary
5. Article is accepted or rejected for publication and outcome is advised by email

FCVic reserves the right to reject articles subject to the following conditions:

- The article does not meet the purposes of the publication
- The article is not pitched at the DA's target audience
- Where editorial oversight has given priority to other content
- The article cannot be substantiated, is hearsay, not factual, lacks context or is missing essential information
- The article is defamatory, unduly offensive or otherwise inappropriate
- The article is poorly executed in terms of tone, style, phrasing, continuity and grammar
- It is a repeat of other current or recent content

Editorial enquiries

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Style guide

The DA is designed to fit a digital email format. This format cannot accommodate an entire publication, and it is not designed to do so. Depending on the word count, for feature articles we will generally include a summary/intro of 100-200 words with a link through to more information or a full article, which we can post on our website blog. The full feature articles generally run between 400-850 words. Articles less than 400 words may be published in full in the body of the newsletter.

Tone and Style

The DA is a formal publication utilising mostly primary source material. The tone we convey is assured, encouraging, informative, engaging and professional.



Artwork

Artwork can be submitted for inclusion with an article. Images are subject to the same editorial guidelines as any other content. If you are submitting graphics, please do so in JPEG format. Images wider than 400px will be reduced to fit within the newsletter.

Copyright and third party rights

You warrant to us that you are the author of the material you submit to us and that you are the owner of, or otherwise entitled to exercise, the copyright in the material that you submit to us for publication. You warrant that our publication of the material will not infringe any third party rights.

By submitting your material you agree that at any time FCVic may authorize third parties to publish, reproduce, modify and edit your material for the purpose of publication in the DA [in hard copy, on our website or in any other medium].

Disclaimer

The views expressed in the DA are not necessarily those of FCVic or its membership. Furthermore, articles relating to products and/or services should not be seen as a recommendation or endorsement of such products by FCVic, and are provided for information only.

Each edition of the DA includes the following disclaimer:

"Whilst FCVic takes every reasonable precaution to ensure the accuracy of the information published in the Devil's Advocate, you should confirm the accuracy of the information on which you may seek to rely. FCVic accepts no responsibility for any loss, damage, or consequence arising either directly or indirectly from the information contained therein."

Deadlines

The deadline for submissions is the 20th day of each month.