



Australian Association for Adolescent Health (AAAH)

Opinion Pieces: Guidelines for Contributors

AAAH Opinion Pieces will be:

- **Informed** - written and reviewed by AAAH members (professionals and young people) with an opinion in the topic area; will include evidence-based practice to support the opinion
- **Unprejudiced** - provide opinions in a respectful manner
- **Compelling** - thought provoking and powerful arguments/opinions that convince readers of their importance

Opinion Pieces will be endorsed by the Board of Directors prior to publication on the AAAH website.

Purpose

To express one's own view based on past experience or perspective gained over time on a certain topic. Usually on topics that are often stigmatised or controversial.

Length:

- Approximately 800-1000 words

Structure:

- Conversational tone
- Aim for 2-3 key messages/opinions.
- Divide these messages into sections so it can be easier to read and locate
- Begin with a strong first line that will grasp the reader's attention
- First paragraph introduces and summaries the main message
- Provide evidence/reasoning throughout the piece
- Be specific as the piece will be short
- Provide some recommendations (optional) and a conclusion
- Try to not use any jargon
- No referencing, only hyperlinks to sources