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### ⇒ Scope

The Australian edition of Global Media Journal invites the submission of essays and research reports that focus on any aspects in the field of Communication, Media and Journalism. We are particularly interested in articles that explore some of the following themes:

- Media and Democracy
  - Children and Media
  - Grassroots and alternative media
  - Media Law and Ethics
  - Civic Journalism
  - Peace Communication
  - Ethnicity and the media
  - Political economy of communication
  - Film and Media
  - Media Audiences
  - Media Policies
  - Media, Citizenship and Democracy
  - Communication and Cultures in Conflict
  - Theories of Communication
  - Media and Globalisation
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## Australian Media Monitor

# COVID-19, Media Policies and Structural Decline in Australian News Media

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The COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 has been responsible for accelerating structural decline in the production of news media for traditional and new media platforms, which may well have on-going, and unforeseeable impacts. As in many other areas of public policy during COVID-19, neoliberal political strategies by the Morrison Government have prioritised business and economic outcomes over existing key societal objectives embedded in media policies in Australia.

Yet the market failure of advertising supported news media business models, and the rise of social media platforms as key sources of news for many people, are testament to the significant changes underway. At the same time, the place of the public broadcasters the ABC and SBS has become more precarious with ongoing cuts to their budgets, forcing them to lay off employees and cut programs.

During the pandemic there were a succession of business closures in 2020 as a result of falling advertising and revenue. This impacted quite heavily on media businesses in Australia and accelerated structural decline in the newspaper sector.

The advocacy group, 'Public Interest Journalism Initiative' (PIJI), has documented 200 news 'contractions' in the sector (meaning title, masthead or newsroom closures, the end of a print edition, a move to digital only, or a merger) since January 2019 (PIJI, 2020).

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