Submission assessments
Submissions are initially be assessed by the editorial office to ensure they are suitable for publication as part of the series.

The editorial staff will consider whether:

- the topic and content are appropriate
- the writing meets the required quality
- the structure of the argument is clear
- the submission will engage readers
- the referencing shows appropriate research and accuracy.

The editorial office will assess any declarations regarding copyright of the original work or third-party materials, potential conflicts of interest, funding conditions, and cross-check authorship details.

Poor quality or inappropriate submissions will be rejected at this stage or returned to authors to redraft. Requests that the author redraft the manuscript should not be construed as an offer to publish or acceptance of the submission once redrafted.

Double-blind peer review process
The Joint Studies paper series may require double-blind peer review of submitted academic papers. Papers will be reviewed by at least two experts with appropriate subject-matter expertise and neither the reviewers’ names nor the authors’ names will be disclosed to either party.

The choice of reviewers and final decisions to publish or not are at the discretion of the series editor. As far as possible, the peer review process will be timely and transparent. Responses to authors to notify them of receipt of their submissions should be sent within a month.

Authors should expected that the editorial office and peer reviewers:

- treat them with honesty, courtesy and transparency
- treat submissions with proper dignity, and fairness
• conduct a peer review process that is rigorous and timely.

**Concurrent submissions and withdrawals**

Authors should not submit previously published manuscripts or articles that are under considered elsewhere.

Authors should notify the editorial office in writing of any change in circumstances that may affect the publication of the manuscript or to request the withdrawal of a manuscript from consideration.

**Honoraria**

The Joint Studies paper series does not pay for articles or provide royalty payments but may on occasion pay modest honoraria.

**Authorship and contributors**

The authorship of research or a scholarly article should be clear. Declarations provided with submissions must list all contributing authors and confirm they have agreed to the version of the article submitted and the arrangement of names. The contact details of all authors should be provided as consent will be verified at the part of the submission assessment process.

**Clearances**

Personnel on active duty, academics working for other institutions, and other public service and civilian personnel may need to seek official clearances prior to submission and should contact their relevant public affairs or communications departments for advice. Please indicate when submitting manuscripts whether clearances were required and have been granted along with supporting documentation.

**Time frame for decisions**

The editorial office will endeavour to respond to all submissions within a month of receipt to advise whether a manuscript has been forwarded for peer review or rejected. The peer review process can take up to six months.

**Plagiarism**

The editorial office takes any allegation of plagiarism extremely seriously. If plagiarism in a submitted manuscript is detected via spot checks or through the peer-review process the manuscript will be rejected and returned to the author.

Any complaints or concerns regarding plagiarism should be raised with the editor via cdr.publications@defence.gov.au for investigation. Plagiarism includes copying text, data, supplementary materials or ideas without suitable attribution or only minor modification.

**Citation manipulation**

Citation rates are not to be inappropriately increased. Authors should not disproportionately cite from their own work.

The editorial office will not ask authors to cite from Defence publications to artificially boost citation rates.
Peer reviewers will not suggest a submission be redrafted to include citations from their own work for the purpose of increase citation rates.

**Allegations of misconduct**

Concerns regarding the legal or ethical integrity of research or alleging misconduct such as plagiarism, falsification or fabrication should be addressed to the editor. All such allegations are taken seriously and will be investigated.

**Appeals**

If an author feels they have a strong case for their work to be reconsidered for publication, they can appeal the decision. Appeals should be made in writing and sent via email to cdr.publications@defence.gov.au for consideration.

When an error occurs within a publication or a correction is required the editorial office will make all reasonable effort to correct the record within the printed and online versions of the publication.

**Complaints**

Complaints and comments relating to material published, or on editorial management and decisions, may also be submitted for consideration to cdr.publications@defence.gov.au with the subject line: Complaints.

Authors are responsible for the factual accuracy of their articles and ADC Publications and its editorial advisory board accepts no responsibility for errors of fact.

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