



## MEAA'S Freelance Charge-out Rates (current as at July 2025)

The purpose of this document is to provide a rough estimate of what you would need to charge to earn the same as a J5 graded journalist on a Nine publishing metropolitan daily newspaper\* – with some allowance given to the running costs of your small business.

**It does not seek to represent actual market conditions – some commissioning editors may be able to offer more than this, many others will offer less.**

For current market rates, check out Rate Tracker on MEAA's web site (<https://freelancers.org.au/rate-tracker/>). Rate Tracker has real data updated by freelancers based on their own experience of who pays what.

Consider adding your own knowledge to Rate Tracker to build a useful tool for freelance colleagues to learn more about what the market rates actually are so we can all work collectively for fair and sustainable incomes for freelancers.

*\*based on the most recent negotiated enterprise bargaining agreement.*

### Writers

Per day	\$1197.82
Per half day (2/3 day rate)	\$798.18
Per hour	\$300.02
Per word	\$1.12

### Photo Reproduction

Single column photo	\$282.10
Half page	\$401.89
Full page	\$589.96
Cover	\$1055.65

### Photojournalists

Per day	\$1493.36
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### Video journalists

Per day	\$1463.14
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### Photographers

Per day	\$1197.82
Per half day (2/3 day rate)	\$798.18
Per hour	\$300.02
Research (per hour)	\$226.13

### Artists

B&W spot cartoon or illustration	\$296.66
B&W half page	\$368.30
B&W full page	\$538.46
Colour half page	\$1104.91
Colour full page	\$2208.70
Colour Cover	\$2648.65

### Book Editors & Proofreaders

Per day	\$1197.82
Per half day (2/3 day rate)	\$798.18
Per hour	\$300.02

### Public Relations

Snr PR Consultant per day	\$1735.17
Per hour	\$228.37

## Expenses

Freelancers are entitled to claim reasonable out of pocket expenses on top of the minimum freelance rates quoted here. These expenses could include: travel costs, telephone, car mileage, fax costs etc.

## Holiday Pay

Casuals employed by Metro Dailies at Nine now receive a 20% casual loading in lieu of holidays. Casuals employed in other areas receive a daily allowance on top of the minimum rate to compensate for holiday pay.

*This information is correct as of November 2025. This is a summary only and is no substitute for a legal document. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy of the information in this document, MEAA accepts no liability for loss arising from inaccuracies, if any, contained within. Any queries should be directed to your local branch of MEAA.*