

RAFAEL GERSTER

JOURNALIST

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ABOUT ME

I am an RMIT journalism graduate. I completed my bachelor's degree in 2023 and achieved a first-class honours degree in 2024. My passion for journalism has been influenced by my interest in news gathering and writing, which are both critical aspects of journalism. Over the past two years, I have been able to develop many new skills: hard news and feature writing, interviewing, and embedding multimedia elements (data, photos, and audio) to news stories. I am aiming to apply these skills in a print or digital journalism role, from which I intend to build my career as a journalist.

EXPERIENCE

The City Journal- Digital Reporter

I have produced multiple articles which have been published in The City Journal

- My data story **'The Rise of Sexual Assault in Australia'** provides insight into the increase in sexual assault cases in 2021.
- My multimedia story **'How Have Far Right Extremist Beliefs Been Expressed In Online Spaces'** examines the link between right wing extremism and the internet.

Shorthand- Digital Reporter

- The multimedia story **'Prisons: Where Does Australia Stand?'** was a collaborative project which tackled the international standing of Australia's prison system.
- The multimedia story **'Docklands: Flourishing or Faltering?'** was a collaborative project which explored the advantages and disadvantages of living in Docklands.

Living Positive Victoria- Digital Reporter

- For my Honours project in 2024, I wrote a series of three feature articles which examined Australia's media representation of HIV over the past 40 years. The series, titled **'How Panic and Fear about HIV in the '80s Fed into Australia's News Coverage,'** was published in the April edition of Living Positive Victoria's news publication.

RMITV- Television Reporter

- I was involved in an RMITV broadcast which covered the results of the 2022 Victorian election. I reported on climate action in the Yarra community and how it would influence Yarra voters.

Newsline- Live Presenter

- I was the live presenter in an episode of Newsline, which was broadcast live on Channel 31.
- My TV package about gambling advertising in Australia was aired in a separate episode of Newsline.

The Swanston Explainer- Podcast Reporter

- I was the reporter in a Swanston Explainer podcast titled **‘The Rural Vote.’** I reported on climate change in the rural areas of Australia and the ways in which it would impact the 2022 federal election.

Under Cover- Podcast Reporter

- In an episode of Under Cover I reported on how traffic congestion is affecting people living in Melbourne and the ways in which it could be addressed.

Triple R- Podcast Editor/Podcast Reporter/Radio Reporter

- Using audacity, I edit Triple R podcasts on a weekly basis, cutting audio and embedding recordings.
- I have participated in an episode of Triple R, reporting on topics such as housing affordability in Australia.
- In April 2025, I participated in an episode of a Triple R podcast called Queer View Mirror. I provided further insight into my Honours project, explaining HIV stigma and the role of the media in changing perceptions on HIV.

Hyperlocal News- Intern

- During my internship with the company Hyperlocal News, I wrote a variety of articles which were published in CBD News, Docklands News, Southbank News and Inner City News. The articles covered council affairs, crime, business and community work.
- I participated in vox pop exercises by interviewing the public about their opinions on Melbourne.

Herald and Weekly Times- Intern

- Working in a daily newsroom, I pitched and wrote stories for the Herald Sun.
- I interviewed academics and members of the public about a variety of topics, including health and the environment.
- I attended Dan Andrews’ press conference in Springvale as a way of learning the art of interviewing politicians.

EDUCATION

2023- Bachelor of Journalism

RMIT University

2020- Year 12 Certificate

Princes Hill Secondary College

SKILLS

- Hard news and feature writing
- Photojournalism
- Multimedia storytelling using shorthand
- Interviewing
- News gathering
- Addressing a certain audience
- Providing news through social media (e.g. twitter)
- Fact checking and verification
- Data storytelling
- Collaborative journalism
- Understanding of journalism law, ethics and integrity
- Podcast reporting
- Television reporting
- Reporting on sensitive topics

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Living Positive Victoria

[HIV IN A CHANGING MEDIA LANDSCAPE](#)

The City Journal

[HOW HAVE FAR RIGHT EXTREMIST BELIEFS BEEN EXPRESSED IN ONLINE SPACES?](#)

[THE RISE OF SEXUAL ASSAULT IN AUSTRALIA](#)

Shorthand

[PRISONS: WHERE DOES AUSTRALIA STAND?](#)

[DOCKLANDS: FLOURISHING OR FALTERING?](#)

Westsider

[GIANT PUPPETS SET TO TAKE OVER FOOTSCRAY IN SNUFFEST](#)

[IS IT TIME FOR A MAJOR STATE ARTS INSTITUTION TO BE BASED IN THE WESTERN SUBURBS?](#)

RMITV

[STATE ELECTION BROADCAST 2022](#)

The Swanston Explainer

[THE RURAL VOTE](#)

UNDER COVER

[TRAFFIC CONGESTION IN MELBOURNE](#)

NEWSLINE

[LIVE REPORTING ROLE](#)

TRIPLE R

[RRR MIDDAY NEWS 1ST MAY](#)

[QUEER VIEW MIRROR: POSLINK WITH LIVING POSITIVE VICTORIA](#)

HYPERLOCAL NEWS

[WILLIAM ANGLISS INSTITUTE'S BUN DAY DELIVERS ON TASTY TREATS](#)

[POLICE APPEAL AFTER ASSAULT IN DOCKLANDS](#)

[LIGHTING UP MELBOURNE'S STREETS AFTER DARK](#)

[CROWN FINED \\$30 MILLION OVER "UNDOCUMENTED" BANK CHEQUE PRACTICE](#)

[SHOPFRONT PROGRAM PUTS MELBOURNE ON THE WORLD MAP](#)

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