

## GUIDELINES

### **CLOSING DATE: 5pm Friday 6 October 2023**

The NSW Government is committed to increasing public engagement with the arts. The annual NSW Premier's Literary Awards honour distinguished achievement by Australian writers. The Awards celebrate Australian creativity and focus national and international attention on our best writers and creative minds.

The NSW Premier's Literary Awards were established in 1979. Past winners have included such notable writers as Michelle de Kretser, Peter Carey, David Malouf AO, Tony Birch, Thomas Keneally AO, Leah Purcell, Jane Campion, Jaclyn Moriarty and Helen Garner.

Total prize money in 2024, including sponsored awards, is \$315,000.

Entries are sought for the following awards:

- Christina Stead Prize for Fiction
- Douglas Stewart Prize for Non-fiction
- Kenneth Slessor Prize for Poetry
- Patricia Wrightson Prize for Children's Literature
- Ethel Turner Prize for Young People's Literature
- Nick Enright Prize for Playwriting
- Betty Roland Prize for Scriptwriting
- Multicultural NSW Award
- Indigenous Writers' Prize

Other awards include:

- UTS Glenda Adams Award for New Writing
- The University of Sydney People's Choice Award
- Book of the Year

## ENTERING THE AWARDS

**Entries must be received by the State Library of NSW no later than 5pm on Friday 6 October 2023.** Entries should be submitted via the online entry form.

**All works must have been first published, performed, screened or broadcast and made publicly available between 1 October 2022 and 30 September 2023.**

## ENTRY FEES

**There is an early-bird entry fee of \$75 (including GST) for each work submitted by 8 September 2023 and \$100 (including GST) for entries submitted after that date and up to the closure date on 6 October 2023.**

The entry fee is payable for EACH entry in EACH category (except for the UTS Glenda Adams Award for New Writing). If a work is entered into a category and the Multicultural NSW Award and/or the Indigenous Writers' Prize, the entry fee to any additional category is \$50 each.

Publishers who are current members of The Small Press Network are exempt from paying the entry fee.

The following groups are also exempt from paying the entry fee:

- Australian Senior and Pensioner cardholders
- Tertiary student cardholders
- Australian Government cardholders (e.g. unemployed, healthcare cards)
- Australian Government Department of Veterans Affairs cardholders

Where an entry is for a group of authors/illustrators, all must be cardholders to be eligible for a payment exemption.

Entrants and authors acknowledge and agree that they participate in the Awards at their own cost and that the State Library of NSW will not be liable for any loss, damage, cost or expense of any kind suffered or incurred by entrants or authors in connection with the Awards.

Credit card payment online is preferred as part of the entry process. If you would like to pay via direct debit please contact the Awards team at [awards@sl.nsw.gov.au](mailto:awards@sl.nsw.gov.au)

## CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

### General

- All works must be primarily in the English language.
- All care will be taken with works submitted, but no responsibility is accepted for loss or damage.
- Applicants will receive an email confirmation on submission of the online entry form. The State Library of NSW will contact any applicants if books have not arrived by the closing date.
- Works can be entered in multiple categories with additional entry fees applicable.
- Books and other material will not be returned to applicants.
- Publishers of books shortlisted for the Awards are expected to supply additional print copies for promotional and administrative purposes and/or copies at discounted rates.
- Breach of the conditions of entry will render an entry invalid.
- In all cases not covered by these conditions and guidelines, the nominator should seek clarification from the State Library of NSW on (02) 9273 1582 or (02) 9273 1767 or at [awards@sl.nsw.gov.au](mailto:awards@sl.nsw.gov.au)

## Eligibility

- Writers, illustrators and translators whose works are entered must be living Australian citizens or hold permanent residency.
- Works published overseas are eligible if the author is an Australian citizen or holds permanent residency.
- The entered work must be the author's/illustrator's own work.
- If a nominee dies or ceases to hold permanent resident status after his or her work has been entered, the judges will not consider his or her work for an award. If, however, the judges recommend an award to an eligible nominee and that nominee dies before the award is presented, the Government may, at its discretion, pay the prize money to the nominee's estate.
- All works must be published in book or ebook form, except for the Nick Enright Prize, Betty Roland Prize, the Multicultural NSW Award and the Indigenous Writers' Prize.
- All entered works must be publicly available: books and ebooks should have ISBNs and must be available for commercial sale; plays must have been performed before a general audience; and scripts must have been publicly screened/broadcast.
- Books compiled by an editor and consisting principally of contributions from several writers are not eligible for entry, except for the Multicultural NSW Award and the Indigenous Writers' Prize. Please refer to the category definitions for more information.
- Works may not be entered in the name of a committee.
- Self-published books may be entered, but unpublished manuscripts will not be considered.
- Entries which are, or contain, adaptations or re-workings of pre-existing works will be considered if they transform, rather than merely transmit, the intentions of the source work. If an entrant's work draws on direct samples or copies of other works not created by them, those sources should be publicly acknowledged and documented. The new work should have been first published, produced, screened/performed within the eligible period.
- Material that has previously been published only in anthologies, literary journals, newspapers or equivalent online platforms is deemed to be new work and may be entered in the awards if it is published in book form within the eligible period.
- Revised editions of books will not be considered unless the revisions are so substantial that the book is, in effect, a new work. It is the nominator's responsibility to identify the new material and to include one copy of the original edition as part of the entry.

## Eligibility periods

- Books entered for the Awards must have been first published between 1 October 2022 and 30 September 2023.
- Plays may be entered for the Nick Enright Prize if **first performed between 1 October 2022 and 30 September 2023**. Where a production has been delayed due to unforeseen circumstances the judges may permit the entry at their discretion.
- Film, radio and television scripts may be entered for the Betty Roland Prize if programs have been **first publicly screened or broadcast between 1 October 2022 and 30 September 2023**: please note this includes screenings at film festivals both in Australia and overseas and on streaming services such as Netflix and ABC iview.

- Works eligible for entry for the NSW Premier's Literary Awards in a previous year are not eligible for entry in this year's awards.
- Electronic versions of previously published books will not be accepted. Print versions of books originally released electronically before the current eligibility period will not be accepted.

## Entering a work

- Entries may be made by writers or illustrators, or by their authorised representative e.g. agent or publisher.
- People or organisations entering works on behalf of an author are deemed to be entering with the author's consent. It is the responsibility of the nominator to ensure that the author's consent is obtained before entering the work. **The author's personal contact details must be included on the entry form, including direct phone and email details (see privacy statement below).**
- It is the responsibility of the nominator and the nominee/s to ensure that the information provided is correct. Incomplete or incorrect entries may render it invalid.
- There is no limit to the number of titles that may be entered by a nominator or author provided the works entered meet all other conditions of entry.
- Entries must be made via the online entry form on the State Library of NSW website. Up to five works can be entered on one form. Each entry must be accompanied by **four copies of the work**, except for the Douglas Stewart and Christina Stead categories where **six copies** must be provided. Entries to the Kenneth Slessor Prize, Nick Enright Prize and Betty Roland Prize may be submitted as electronic versions or hard copies. Electronic versions are preferred for the Nick Enright Prize and Betty Roland Prize. Poetry, plays or scripts entered for the Indigenous Writers' Prize or the Multicultural NSW Award may be entered as electronic versions.
- Works can be entered in multiple categories. Each additional category entry must be accompanied by an additional three copies of the entered work.
- Ebooks entered into the fiction, non-fiction or children's categories must be accompanied by **bound copies of the printed text** for assessment purposes. In some cases, additional copies of a work may be requested by the judges.
- If the judges believe a book has been submitted in the wrong category the State Library representative will contact the nominating publisher/author/agent. The final decision on the category in which a book is considered will rest with the judges.
- Judges may admit works after the deadline in exceptional circumstances.
- These general conditions of entry should be read in conjunction with the specific conditions for each prize and award which are set out on the following pages.

# THE JUDGING PROCESS

## General Assessment

The awards honour distinguished achievement by Australian writers, and literary merit is uppermost in assessing entries.

## Who assesses the entries?

The awards will be judged by an independent committee of writers, academics, critics and other sector professionals who have been appointed by the NSW Premier or the Minister for the Arts or their delegates.

The committee will be divided into category panels with a minimum of three persons on each.

The Chairs of each category panel will recommend the winner of Book of the Year and the UTS Glenda Adams Award for New Writing.

## What is the judging process?

Each panel will assess all entered works in their category. Panels may request additional information on entries from applicants at this stage of the process. A panel may also act as it considers appropriate to encourage the entry of eligible works not already entered.

Each panel will select a shortlist (containing no more than six titles per category) and prepare judges' comments. If a panel decides against recommending an award in a particular category, the State Library of NSW and/or the NSW Premier may select an additional judge to provide separate advice on the award.

The committee's final recommendations will be submitted to the NSW Premier and/or Minister for the Arts, who will publicly announce the shortlists and then winners. There will be no notification for unsuccessful applicants.

The decisions of the NSW Premier and/or Minister for the Arts will be final, and no discussion or correspondence will be entered into concerning the decisions.

## KEY DATES

Early-bird entry fee ends:	8 September 2023
Entries close:	Friday 6 October 2023 at 5pm
Shortlist announced:	April 2024
Winner announced:	20 May 2024

## 2024 PRIZES AND AWARDS

### The Christina Stead Prize for Fiction

The Christina Stead Prize (\$40,000) is offered for a book of fiction. The award may be made for a novel or a collection of stories. A collection of stories may contain some previously published work. In such a case the judges will determine whether the new work is sufficient, in quantity and quality, to merit an award. It is the nominator's responsibility to clearly identify previously published material.

This category is for works of fiction for adults. Writing for young adults and children should be entered into those respective categories.

Works of multiple authorship, including anthologies, are not eligible for entry.

Works that blend fiction and non-fiction may be entered in either the Christina Stead Prize for Fiction or the Douglas Stewart Prize for non-fiction but not both. It is the entrant's responsibility to determine which prize is most suitable for their work.

**Nominators should be very selective about the works entered into this category. Works must meet the highest literary standards to be considered competitive and progress through the judging process.**

### The Douglas Stewart Prize for Non-fiction

The Douglas Stewart Prize (\$40,000) is for a prose work other than a work of fiction. Books including biographies, autobiographies and works of history, philosophy and literary criticism may be entered provided they meet the highest standard of literary merit. Oral histories are ineligible unless the author claims artistic responsibility for the majority of the text.

Books compiled by an editor and/or consisting of contributions of more than four writers are not eligible for the Douglas Stewart Prize.

An award will not be given for a work consisting principally of photographs or illustrations unless the text is of substantial length and of sufficient merit in its own right. In such cases, no part of the prize money will be paid to the photographer or illustrator.

Works that blend fiction and non-fiction may be entered in either the Christina Stead Prize for Fiction or the Douglas Stewart Prize for non-fiction but not both. It is the entrant's responsibility to determine which prize is most suitable for their work.

**Nominators should be very selective about the works entered into this category. Works must meet the highest literary standards to be considered competitive and progress through the judging process.**

### The Kenneth Slessor Prize for Poetry

The Kenneth Slessor Prize (\$30,000) is offered to a poet for a book of collected poems or for a single poem of substantial length published in book form. A collection of poems may consist partly of work previously published in book form, but this work must be clearly identified by the nominator. In such cases the judges will assess only the new work and determine whether it is sufficient, in quantity and quality, to merit an award.

A collection of poems may be published in a book containing the work of up to four poets. The judges will exercise their discretion in determining whether the work of the entered poet is sufficient to make it eligible for an award.

Entrants may submit electronic or hard copies of books for this Award. If submitting an electronic copy of the book entrants should upload an electronic file (PDF) in their online entry form.

## The Patricia Wrightson Prize for Children's Literature

The Patricia Wrightson Prize (\$30,000) is offered for a work of fiction, non-fiction or poetry written for pre-school and primary school children. Books containing the work of more than four authors, including anthologies, are not eligible for entry.

In the case of books containing original illustrations which are integral to the success of the book, the judges may determine that the award be shared by the writer/s and the illustrator.

## The Ethel Turner Prize for Young People's Literature

The Ethel Turner Prize (\$30,000) is offered for a work of fiction, non-fiction or poetry written for young people of secondary school level. Books containing the work of more than four authors, including anthologies, are not eligible for entry.

In the case of books containing original illustrations which are integral to the success of the book, the judges may determine that the award be shared by the writer/s and the illustrator.

## The Nick Enright Prize for Playwriting

The Nick Enright Prize (\$30,000) is offered for a play, or a work of music drama given its first production in Australia between 1 October 2022 and 30 September 2023. The production may be given by a professional or amateur theatre company, but it must involve a season of several performances before a general audience. Plays written by more than four authors are not eligible for this prize.

Assessment will be made entirely on the literary merit of the written text, and not on the merits of a particular production. The text should translate to the stage and be performable.

- Where a production has been delayed due to unforeseen circumstances the judges may permit the entry at their discretion.

The prize money will be paid to the playwright/s. In the case of a work of music drama, the judges may decide that the award should be shared by the writer and the composer. In this instance, the composer must be a living Australian citizen or hold permanent resident status.

Works may be submitted in electronic format for this prize. Applicants should upload an electronic file in their online entry form (PDF).

## The Betty Roland Prize for Scriptwriting

The Betty Roland Prize (\$30,000) is offered for the screenplay of a feature-length fiction film, for the script of a documentary film, for the script of a play or documentary for radio, or for the script of a television program (whether fiction or non-fiction).

A script will be eligible for consideration if a film or radio or television program has been first publicly screened or broadcast between 1 October 2022 and 30 September 2023: please note this includes at film festivals in Australia and internationally and on streaming services such as Netflix and ABC iview.

Scripts written by more than four authors are not eligible for this prize.

Only one episode, per writer, per series can be considered, except for co-written episodes with a writer who has already submitted an entry.

Writers entering scripts that form part of a series should include a brief breakdown of the series synopsis and characters, and of the writer's role in the series (i.e. show runner, series originator, episode writer).

Only the writer's original work will be considered for an award. The writer should submit the final shooting script to the judges for consideration. Where the writer has a strong preference for his or her own draft that differs from the final shooting script (provided it was the accepted draft for production) they can submit it. In the case of co-authored works, the writers should submit the entry jointly.

Works may be submitted in electronic format for this prize. Applicants should upload an electronic file (PDF) in their online entry form.

Assessment will be made entirely on the literary merit of the written text, and not on the merits of the resulting film, radio or television program. The text should translate to the screen and be performable.

## Multicultural NSW Award

***This award is sponsored wholly by Multicultural NSW***

The Multicultural NSW Award (\$30,000) is offered for works eligible for any of the other prize categories and which is deemed by the judges to have made a significant contribution to Australian literature, poetry, theatre, film, radio or television and which also considers:

- any aspect of the Australian migration experience; and/or
- aspects of cultural diversity and multiculturalism in Australian society.

Works entered must have been published, performed, screened or broadcast between 1 October 2022 and 30 September 2023.

Collaborative works and projects, anthologies or collected works may be considered, with the editor(s) being entered for the award on behalf of the title.

Academic titles such as textbooks may be considered eligible, based on meeting literary merit requirements.

Entrants to the Multicultural NSW Award are also eligible to enter their work in any of the other award categories: discounted entry fees will apply for each category entered.

## Indigenous Writers' Prize

The Indigenous Writers' Prize (\$30,000) acknowledges the contribution made to Australian literary culture by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander writers. The prize is open to those who are of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent, who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders, and who are accepted as such by the communities in which they live.

Entrants may be asked to provide the judging panel with confirmation of Indigenous identity. Please refer to the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies for more information. <http://aiatsis.gov.au/research/finding-your-family/confirmation-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-heritage> You must provide additional information and documentation promptly if the judging panel asks you to do so.

The Prize recognises literary merit and promotes works in all categories including fiction, non-fiction, poetry, books for children and young adults, plays, and scriptwriting. Entrants to the Indigenous Writers' Prize are also eligible to enter their work in any of the other award categories: discounted entry fees will apply for each category entered.

Co-authored entries will only be considered if all writers are of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent. In the case of books with illustrations, illustrators need not be of Aboriginal or Torres Strait



Islander descent but if that is the case the work will be judged on the writing alone and any prize money would be awarded to only the writer.

In the case of books containing original illustrations by people of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent which are integral to the success of the book, the judges may determine that the award be shared by the writer/s and the illustrator.

Collaborative works and projects, anthologies, or collected works may be considered, with the editor(s) being nominated for the award on behalf of the title. The editor(s) must be indigenous as well as the majority of the contributors.

## The UTS Glenda Adams Award for New Writing

***This award is sponsored wholly by the University of Technology Sydney***

The winner of the UTS Glenda Adams Award for New Writing, valued at \$10,000, is chosen from debut entries submitted for all the award categories (no additional entry fee is required for this award). Entrants should indicate on the entry form if their book, play or script is a debut work.

Entrants for this award must not have previously had a full-length work professionally published or performed in any of the categories covered by the NSW Premier's Literary Awards.

This Award seeks to recognise outstanding new literary talent.

## The University of Sydney People's Choice Award

The annual University of Sydney People's Choice Award was introduced in 2009 to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NSW Premier's Literary Awards. It is valued at \$5,000 and has been sponsored by the University of Sydney since 2022.

The People's Choice Award is selected from the titles shortlisted for the Christina Stead Prize for Fiction and the Douglas Stewart Prize for Non-fiction. Voting details will be posted on the State Library of NSW Website [www.sl.nsw.gov.au/pla](http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/pla)

## Book of the Year

The committee may choose from among the winners of the awards a 'Book of the Year', and the Government may, at its discretion, make an additional payment of \$10,000 prize money to the writer of the work so designated. Book of the Year is not open for public entry.

## PRIVACY NOTICE

Personal information collected by the State Library of NSW is treated in accordance with the State Library of NSW Privacy Management Plan and is governed by the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998* and related regulations. Information provided on the application form will only be used for purposes related to the awards, which may include advertising or promoting the NSW Premier's Literary Awards and award presentation events. Unless expressly requested, images of individuals present at award presentation events may be used for promotional purposes. Entries for an award must only be submitted with the author's consent and knowledge of the Privacy Notice. Please visit [www.sl.nsw.gov.au/privacy/privacy-management-plan](http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/privacy/privacy-management-plan) or email [privacy@sl.nsw.gov.au](mailto:privacy@sl.nsw.gov.au) for further information.

### Right to Information

Under some circumstances, information pertaining to entries and administration of the awards may be released, subject to consultation, in response to an application request made in accordance with the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*.

## ENTRANT'S ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The State Library of NSW encourages winning and shortlisted authors of the Awards to be available to undertake a small number of activities to promote the Awards up to and including the next year the Awards are presented. Activities may include media interviews (face to face or via electronic means), photographs or personal appearances at functions promoting these Awards, author events at the State Library, and, where possible, events across the NSW Public Library Network.

All intellectual property in the submitted work remains vested in the author(s). The author(s) grant(s) to the Library of NSW a royalty free, perpetual and irrevocable licence to use any part of the submitted work for publications and promotions relating to the Awards, any future awards and the State Library of NSW generally. This licence shall continue notwithstanding the conclusion of the Awards process and/or any author's decision to withdraw from the Awards process.

The State Library of New South Wales need not advise the author(s) of any intended use of the Work;

- the author(s) have the right to give consent on behalf of its employees, consultants or any other collaborators, illustrators, copywriters, or any other person associated with the authorship and production of the Work; and
- where requested, the author(s) must provide the State Library of New South Wales with copies of all relevant consents in a form required by the State Library of New South Wales.

Award recipients must not engage (and must not have engaged) in behaviour that would be seen to bring the Award into disrepute. The State Library of NSW, in its absolute discretion, reserves the right to conduct criminal record checks in respect of authors whose works are submitted for consideration in respect of the Awards.

The State Library of NSW, in its absolute discretion, may withdraw the offer of prize money or demand the return of prize money already paid if it is discovered that any of the information provided in the application is false. Upon receipt of such a demand, a prize winner must immediately return the prize money to the State Library of NSW.

## ENTRY CHECKLIST

1. Read the 2024 NSW Premier's Literary Awards guidelines, including the Privacy Notice and Entrant's Acknowledgement
2. Complete the online application form <https://forms.sl.nsw.gov.au/pla/2024>
3. Where electronic submissions are being made file names should include the name of the author and the title of the work
4. Send copies of your work/s to the State Library of NSW by **5pm, Friday 6 October 2023**.

Each entry must include:

- required copies of work/s (four copies for each category entered. Six copies for the Douglas Stewart and Christina Stead Prizes. Not applicable for works submitted electronically in the Nick Enright, Betty Roland, Kenneth Slessor Prize, Multicultural NSW and/or Indigenous Writers' Prize categories)

### Postal address

2024 NSW Premier's Literary Awards  
NAME OF CATEGORY(S) ENTERED  
State Library of NSW  
1 Shakespeare Place  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

## ENQUIRIES

For more information contact:  
Senior Project Officer, Awards  
Phone: (02) 9273 1582 or (02) 9273 1767  
[awards@sl.nsw.gov.au](mailto:awards@sl.nsw.gov.au)