

# WESTERN AUSTRALIAN PREMIER'S BOOK AWARDS 2024

## The Western Australian Writer's Fellowship

These awards are made available by the Government of Western Australia and are managed by the State Library of Western Australia.

*The Western Australian Writer's Fellowship* (\$60,000) is designed to assist a Western Australian writer, of any style or genre, to develop their writing practice and give them the time to create new work. The *Fellowship* is intended to support a writer within a one-year time period.

This document contains the general guidelines, terms and conditions for *The Western Australian Writer's Fellowship* and an explanation of entry materials required.

### What you can apply for

You can apply the funds to a range of different activities over the *Fellowship* period. Some examples of the activities which may be funded include:

- the creation of new work
- research, development and experimentation
- residencies and travel

Note: 100% of the funding can be used as the writer's salary.

### Entry materials required

All uploaded application materials must be saved as a PDF (10MB maximum) and labelled and footnoted with your name and application material type e.g. Joanne Smith CV.

Start by filling out the [online](#) form. The below list breaks down each of the entry materials required.

- A) A detailed CV including a list of any published works (max 3 pages).
- B) Five (5) copies of a work or book most relevant to your proposal. If you do not have a book, then 5 bound/ collated/ stapled copies of your writing, script, manuscript, poetry, short stories or articles etc. This book or work shows your experience as a writer and does not have to be your most recent work. Copies of works must be received by **5pm (WST) 5 March 2024**. Copies received after this date will not be accepted, and the related entry will be void. Your application number and a mailing label will be emailed once the entry form is completed.
- C) Upload a portfolio of writing that is a maximum of 40 pages. This portfolio must not include samples from point B (above). Like an artist's portfolio, the idea is to showcase your writing to the judges. It can consist of one or many pieces of writing.
- D) A statement clearly outlining your plan for the Fellowship including what you hope to achieve within the timeframe, realistic outcomes, potential impact and benefit on your writing career, motivations, literary plans and proposed budget (max 3 pages).
- E) Letter/s of support by a fellow writer, publishing company, organisation or peer. Only one letter is required, but you can include up to three (3) letters of support or reference, with each letter not exceeding one A4 page.  
These are letters of support attesting to your writing, not a guarantee or possibility of publishing the work or book.

## Assessment criteria

Judges will assess applicants against three pillars: Outstanding Professional Achievement, Viability and Impact. Judges may consider a number of factors including:

- The quality, creativity and/or potential of your work.
- Your track record as a writer.
- Supporting documentation that attests to the strength and creativity of previous written work.
- Strength of the application materials. Well written with clear aims and objectives including detailed timeline and budget, if applicable. Viability of your proposal – the objectives and activities are clearly defined, realistic and contain achievable outcomes.
- How the proposed activity strengthens your writing practice.
- How the Fellowship may impact on and further your development and career.
- Proposed work or a project will be of interest to the target audience.
- How the proposed activity will be documented, presented and shared.
- Where proposals involve working with diverse audiences or communities, judges will look for demonstrated cultural competencies and appropriateness.

## Guidelines, terms and conditions

Please read these carefully before applying.

### Eligibility

1. The writer must be substantively a Western Australian resident for a minimum of 12 months before the closing date of nominations.
2. Applicants to the Fellowship cannot enter any other categories in the 2024 Western Australian Premier's Book Awards.
3. The Fellowship is open to applicants 18 years or older.
4. The Fellowship is awarded to an individual writer only.
5. Authors can only enter the Fellowship **once per year**.
6. Former Fellowship shortlisted applicants can apply. Former winners of the Fellowship are ineligible.
7. Writers of most styles or genres are eligible to apply. This includes historians, scriptwriters, playwrights and poets but not educational or technical writers.
8. Applicants must be practicing writers at any stage of their career and must be able to provide evidence of their practice and achievement. This does not necessarily mean engaged in full-time work as writers, since many writers hold employment in other areas to sustain their career.
9. Applicants may be working in an academic field but are only eligible if the application is clearly for a creative project and not linked to their study or teaching practice. The Fellowship output should not form part of any postgraduate assessment or work.
10. Applicants developing work specifically as curriculum material are not eligible.
11. All works entered must be written in the English language or have parallel English text.
12. Works entered must be the author's own work.
13. Employees and Board Members of the State Library of Western Australia are not eligible to enter nor employees of the State Records Office (SRO).
14. The judges or the State Library of Western Australia may request supporting documentation concerning any or all the above eligibility criteria.
15. The decision upon the eligibility of an entry is final.

## Closing date

16. The closing date for entries is **5pm (WST) Monday 26 February 2024**. The [online entry form](#) must be completed by this time and date. Entries received after this deadline will not be accepted.
17. After submitting an online entry form you will receive an automated email with your entry number and entry address label details.
18. Five (5) copies of the entered work (point B in Entry Materials Required) must be received at the State Library of Western Australia no later than **5pm (WST) 5 March 2024**. Copies received after this date will not be accepted, and the related entry will be void.
19. Confirmation that your works have arrived at the State Library of Western Australia will be acknowledged by email. Please allow ten (10) working days to receive this acknowledgment.
20. The State Library of Western Australia takes no responsibility for entries that are not received by the due date.

## Entries

21. Only applications entered via the [online entry form](#) and submitted with five (5) original copies of a recent and relevant work will be considered for *The Western Australian Writer's Fellowship*.
22. Books and other entered material will not be returned. All entered material will become the property of the State Library of Western Australia. The State Library of Western Australia reserves the right to add these works to the Library's collections, give them to judges or donate them to charity. Samples and other unpublished works will not be shared beyond the judging panel and will be destroyed at the conclusion of the judging process.
23. The Western Australian Premier's Book Awards are free to enter. However, the cost of sending books/works to the State Library must be covered by the applicant.

## Prize money

24. \$60,000 may be awarded to the winning author of *The Western Australian Writer's Fellowship*.
25. Prize monies will be paid to the individual in whose name the award has been entered, according to the author's contact details on the online entry form.
26. If the recipient of *The Western Australian Writer's Fellowship* has passed away the money will be reallocated.
27. Winners should seek independent advice regarding the tax implications of any prize.

## Judging

28. The judges are not required to make awards in all categories if they do not consider the nominated books to be of sufficient merit.
29. The judging process must be free from interference to allow for a transparent process. Any author, publisher, literary agent or lobbyist who attempts to undertake discussions or corresponds with a judge of these awards about an entry or entries may be disqualified.
30. Due to the number of entries, feedback will not be available.

## Winning and shortlisted entries

31. A shortlist will be announced via the State Library of Western Australia's social media channels [@statelibrarywa](#) and then published on the State Library of Western Australia's [website](#). Authors will then be notified by email if their entry has been shortlisted.
32. The winners will be announced in June 2024. Nominees should be available for media, functions and public engagements. Winning entries and judges' comments will be posted on the State Library of Western Australia's [website](#).
33. Publishers may include 'Western Australian Writer's Fellowship – SHORTLISTED' and 'Western Australian Writer's Fellowship – WINNER' badges on subsequent editions of the relevant work in a format supplied by the State Library of Western Australia.
34. The State Library of Western Australia expects that each winner of *The Western Australian Writer's Fellowship*

will be available from time to time to undertake media interviews and to promote these awards. For this reason, prize recipients should be prepared to undertake a small number of public appearances, media interviews (face to face or via electronic means), photographs or personal appearances at functions promoting these awards up to and including the next year the awards are presented.

35. The winner is expected to report (acquit) on the final outcomes.

## Confidentiality

36. With the exception of personal information on the online entry form, the State Library of Western Australia gives no undertaking to keep confidential any information provided with the entries for the awards.

## Other

37. Breach of any guidelines, terms and conditions will render an entry invalid.
38. Authors and illustrators will retain copyright and moral rights in their works. The Government of Western Australian and State Library of Western Australia will not reproduce the works without permission from the author, except for uses permitted by *The Copyright Act 1968*.
39. The State Library of Western Australia is the [legal deposit](#) library for Western Australia. Entry into the Book Awards does not constitute a legal deposit. Legal deposit is a statutory provision requiring publishers to deposit copies of their publications in a nominated collecting institute.
40. The Government of Western Australian may change the guidelines, terms and conditions or vary the awards process at any time either before or after the closing date of entries. No claim or entitlement for compensation for loss can be made for any matter relating to the Western Australian Premier's Book Awards, including but not limited to a failure of the organisers or the Government of Western Australian to comply with the guidelines, terms, and conditions. In the case of major changes that affect the entry or outcome, all entrants will be notified via email.

## Working with children

If your activity directly involves children, or if you and/or key personnel in the activity will be responsible for, or supervising children, you must confirm your understanding and compliance with current legislative requirements related to working with children. Refer to the [Working with Children Check](#) website, for more information. The *Working with Children (Criminal Record Checking) Act 2004* makes it compulsory for many people in child-related work to apply for a Working with Children Check.

41. The State Library of Western Australia reserves the right to require any applicant to provide relevant clearances as a pre-condition of funding. A person is in child-related work if their usual duties of work involve, or are likely to involve:
- contact with a child (a child is a person under the age of 18 years); and
  - that contact is in connection with at least one of the 19 categories of child-related work listed under the Act; and
  - no exemptions apply.

## Information and enquiries:

Western Australian Premier's Book Awards  
State Library of Western Australia  
Perth Cultural Centre  
25 Francis Street  
PERTH WA 6000

Contact: **Karen Farmer**  
Email: [premiersbookawards@slwa.wa.gov.au](mailto:premiersbookawards@slwa.wa.gov.au)  
Telephone: (08) 9427 3173

The closing date for entries is:  
**26 February 2024 5:00pm (WST)**

Information about the Premier's Book Awards and the online entry form can be found at:



[bit.ly/3XZQeju](https://bit.ly/3XZQeju)



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