



# WESTERN AUSTRALIAN PREMIER'S BOOK AWARDS 2026

## Emerging Writer of the Year

The Western Australian Premier's Book Awards (the awards) are made available by the WA Government and are managed by the State Library of Western Australia.

**Emerging Writer of the Year** (\$15,000) is awarded to the first-ever published or self-published book, in any style or genre, written by an author residing in Western Australia.

### Guidelines, terms and conditions

Below are the guidelines, terms and conditions for **Emerging Writer of the Year**.

#### Eligibility

1. All books entered must have been published and made available for general sale between **1 January 2025 and 31 December 2025**.
2. The award is for a **first-ever published book**, in any genre, written by an author who has not previously published or self-published a book. This includes chapbooks that have an ISBN, were printed in book form and available for sale.
3. Only books published for the first time are eligible (i.e. second or later editions and reprints are ineligible).
4. All books, including self-published books, must have an International Standard Book Number (ISBN), be printed in book form and be available for general sale.
5. Each book can only be entered in one category (i.e. the same book cannot be entered in multiple categories). The person submitting the entry must decide which category they wish to enter.
6. Authors who have published multiple books in the calendar year can enter multiple books in the relevant categories.
7. Joint authored books are eligible with a maximum of two joint authors. The prize money will be shared equally between the joint authors.
8. In the case of a book containing original illustrations the illustrator will be considered a joint author.
9. Anthologies, collections or books written by three or more authors are ineligible. In the case of combined collaborative works by community groups the group **may** be considered as a single author.
10. The author must be substantively a Western Australian resident for a minimum of twelve (12) months before the closing date of entry.
11. If a book has joint authors, one of the joint authors must have been a Western Australian resident for a minimum of twelve (12) months prior to the closing date of entry.
12. If a book has joint authors, it must be the first published or self-published book for all authors and illustrators.
13. All entries, including wordless books, must be primarily written in the English language or have a parallel English text.
14. Published versions of books originally released electronically before the eligibility period will not be accepted.
15. Books entered must be the author's own work and must not have been published previously in any other format.
16. Works generated by artificial intelligence (AI) are ineligible.
17. Employees and Board Members of the State Library of Western Australia are not eligible to enter.

18. Books developed specifically as curriculum material are not eligible.
19. The State Library of Western Australia may request supporting documentation concerning any of the eligibility criteria.
20. Decisions regarding the eligibility of an entry are final and at the discretion of the State Library of Western Australia.

## Entries

21. Books may be submitted by authors, publishers or literary agents. The submitter must have the permission of all authors or joint authors.
22. The closing date for entries is **5pm (WST) Friday 6 March 2026**. The online entry form must be completed by this time and date. Entries received after this deadline will not be accepted.
23. Entries must be submitted via the online form and four (4) original copies of the books supplied.
24. After completing the online form submitters will receive an automated email with an entry number and mailing address label. Confirmation that books have arrived at the State Library will be acknowledged by email. Please allow ten (10) working days.
25. Submitters will be required to supply an additional five (5) original copies of any books that are shortlisted.
26. The Western Australian Premier's Book Awards are free to enter. However, the cost of sending books to the State Library of Western Australia must be covered by the submitter.
27. Books entered will not be returned. All entered material will become property of the State Library of Western Australia.

## Prize money

28. Prize money of \$15,000 may be awarded to the winning author/s of ***Emerging Writer of the Year***.
29. Prize monies will be paid to the author in whose name the award has been entered, according to the author's contact details on the online entry form.
30. In the case of a joint authored/illustrated book, the award money will be shared between the listed joint authors/illustrators.
31. Authors must be living at the time of entry. If the winning author passes away after entries close, the prize money will be paid to their estate.
32. Winners should seek independent advice regarding the tax implications of any prize money.

## Judging

33. The judges are not required to make awards in all categories if they do not consider the submitted books to be of sufficient merit.
34. The judging panel's decision will be final, and no discussion will be entered into regarding their decisions.
35. The judging process must be free from interference. Any author, publisher, literary agent or lobbyist who attempts to undertake discussions or corresponds with a judge about an entry may cause the entry to be disqualified.
36. Due to the number of entries, feedback will not be available.

## Winning and shortlisted entries

- 37. Authors and publishers will be notified if their entry is shortlisted.
- 38. Winners will be announced in July/August 2026.
- 39. Publishers may include 'Western Australian Premier's Book Awards – SHORTLISTED' and Western Australian Premier's Book Awards – WINNER' badges on subsequent editions of the relevant work in a format supplied by the State Library of Western Australia.
- 40. The State Library of Western Australia expects that category winners and shortlisted authors will be available from time to time to undertake a small number of public appearances, media interviews, photographs or personal appearances at functions promoting the awards up to and including the next year the awards are presented.

## Confidentiality

- 41. Personal information will be kept confidential.

## Other

- 42. Breach of any guidelines, terms and conditions will render an entry invalid.
- 43. Authors and illustrators will retain copyright and moral rights over their works. The Government of Western Australia and the State Library of Western Australia will not reproduce the works without permission from the author, except for uses permitted by *The Copyright Act 1968*.
- 44. The State Library of Western Australia is the [legal deposit](#) library for Western Australia. Entry into the 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.
- 45. The State Library of Western Australia may change the guidelines, terms and conditions or vary the awards process at any time. 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 of the Government of Western Australia 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.

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

[slwa.wa.gov.au](http://slwa.wa.gov.au)

