

# South Australian Literary Awards

2024  
Guidelines



Government  
of South Australia



State Library  
South Australia

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# About the Awards

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Introduced in 1986 by the Government of South Australia, the South Australian Literary Awards (the Awards) celebrate Australia's writing culture by offering national and state-based literary prizes across a range of genres. The Awards program includes fellowships for South Australian writers, highlighting the importance of our unique local writers, supporting the literary community and contributing to public engagement with literature.

The State Library of South Australia is proud to manage the South Australian Literary Awards, which are held biennially. Formerly known as the Adelaide Festival Awards for Literature, 2024 heralds a new era for the Awards with the unveiling of a fresh look and new name. Winning authors will be announced at a ceremony at the State Library's iconic Mortlock Chamber, to be held in November 2024.

## Key Dates

- Applications open: Friday 3 November 2023
- Applications close: Friday 15 December 2023, 5pm
- Shortlist announced: July 2024
- Winners announced: November 2024

# National Awards for Published Works

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**National Awards for Published Works are open to writers who are Australian citizens or have permanent resident status.**

Books first published between 1 July 2021 and 15 December 2023 (inclusive) may be entered.

Books published overseas before 1 July 2021 may be eligible, provided their Australian release was after that date.

There are six categories in these awards:

## **Premier's Award (\$25,000)**

This award is for the best overall published work. Contenders for this category are the winners of the other categories listed below. The \$25,000 prize is additional to the winner's category prize.

## **Fiction Award (\$15,000)**

For a published novel or collection of short stories.

## **Non-Fiction Award (\$15,000)**

For a published non-fiction work which demonstrates a command of the subject as well as a fluent and outstanding literary style. There is no restriction in this category regarding subject matter.

## **Young Adult Fiction Award (\$15,000)**

For a published book of fiction aimed at readers aged approximately 12-18 years.

## **Children's Literature Award (\$15,000)**

This award is for a published fiction or non-fiction book aimed at readers up to approximately 11 years. The book must have a substantial literary content.

## **John Bray Poetry Award (\$15,000)**

This award honours the late Dr John Bray for his distinguished services to Australian poetry and is for a published collection of poetry.

## **Eligibility**

- Submitted works must be the author's own work and must not have been published previously in any other format. Published versions of books originally released electronically before the eligible period will not be accepted.
- Anthologies of different authors' work are not eligible in any category.
- Revised editions of books will not be accepted unless the revisions are substantial enough for the book to be considered a new work. It is the responsibility of the applicant to identify the new material and to include one copy of the original edition with the application form.

## **Assessment**

- Independent judges will assess all categories.
- Decisions are final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- Judges reserve the right not to recommend an award if they determine the submitted works are not considered to be of sufficient merit.
- Judges have the right to move an application to a different category if they deem the category to be more relevant.

**Due to the large number of applications expected in the published works categories, applicants are encouraged to submit their entries well in advance of the closing date.**

# Awards for South Australian Writers

These awards are for writers who are either:

- **South Australian residents:** Applicants must be a current resident of South Australia and be able to provide proof of a current South Australian address.
- **Born in South Australia but currently live elsewhere:** To qualify, writers must be able to demonstrate their continuing ties with the state.

There are two categories in these awards:

## Jill Blewett Playwright's Award (\$12,500)

Introduced in 1992, the Jill Blewett Playwright's Award is named after the former Chair of the State Theatre Company South Australia, in honour of her contribution to theatre.

The award offers a cash prize of \$12,500 for an unproduced play of any genre written by a professional South Australian playwright over the age of 18 years.

Only applications from individual playwrights will be considered.

Emerging playwrights are encouraged to apply.

The award is made possible by the Government of South Australia, through Arts South Australia, with the support of the State Theatre Company South Australia.

Submission format for scripts is:

- plain font
- 11 point
- one and a half line spacing
- double-sided numbered pages
- spiral bound.

## Arts South Australia Wakefield Press Unpublished Manuscript Award (\$10,000)

The award recognises the importance of new writing to a vibrant literary culture.

The winner of this award receives a cash prize and publication of the winning manuscript by Wakefield Press.

Judges are looking for fresh ideas, a distinctive voice and literary merit. Book-length manuscripts of non-fiction, fiction and poetry are eligible. Manuscripts previously submitted for this award are ineligible unless they have been substantially revised. World rights in the book must be available.

Submission format for manuscripts is:

- plain font
- 11 point
- one and a half line spacing
- double-sided numbered pages
- spiral bound.

See application form for this category for full submission details.

The application form asks if your entry represents the voice or experience of a marginalised or vulnerable group, do you identify as part of that community? For example, if your work is written in the voice of an Aboriginal person, are you Aboriginal?

This question is not compulsory and will only be visible to the judging panel as part of the assessment process.

## Assessment

- Independent judges will assess both categories.
- Decisions are final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- Judges reserve the right not to recommend an award if they determine the submitted works are not considered to be of sufficient merit.

# Fellowships for South Australian Writers

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Fellowships offer a day-to-day living allowance for South Australian writers. The allowance is intended to give writers the opportunity to undertake their fellowship project on a full-time basis.

Fellowships are open to South Australian residents only.

## **Barbara Hanrahan Fellowship (\$15,000)**

This fellowship was created in 1993 in honour of the distinguished South Australian writer and visual artist, Barbara Hanrahan. It is open to writers working in the areas of fiction, poetry, drama, scriptwriting, autobiography, essays, major histories, literary criticism or other expository or analytical prose.

## **Max Fatchen Fellowship (\$15,000)**

This fellowship was named in celebration of South Australian writer, Max Fatchen and his commitment to children's literature and the local writing community. It is open to South Australian writers for young people working in the genres of fiction, drama, poetry or screenwriting.

## **Tangkanungku Pintyanthi Fellowship (\$15,000)**

This fellowship is open to South Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander writers working in the genres of fiction, literary non-fiction, poetry and playwriting.

Successful recipients will negotiate the duration of their fellowship with Arts South Australia, but must start by March 2025. Recipients are required to enter into an agreement with the State Library of South Australia and to acquit the fellowship after completion.

Recipients are eligible to apply to Arts South Australia and Creative Australia for funding to support other projects while completing their fellowship.

## **Eligibility**

Writers must have achieved one or more of the following:

- a full-length work in the process of being published by a recognised publisher or with a firm contract for publication from a publisher
- a full-length work being prepared for production by a professional theatre company or for the electronic media
- at least one book published by a recognised publisher covering the genres specified above (self-publication is not acceptable)
- at least one full-length work performed or presented by one, or more, of the following:
  - State or other full-time professional theatre companies
  - regional theatre companies with full-time artistic directors and administrators
  - a professional project-based company (i.e. a company that is funded project-by-project)
  - radio and television (mini-series, telemovies, radio drama, etc.)
  - cinema (full-length films).

## **Assessment**

- Independent judges will assess all categories.
- Decisions are final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- Judges reserve the right not to recommend a fellowship if they determine that the applications are not of sufficient merit.
- Fellowships are awarded on the basis of writing ability, as demonstrated by the applicant in the form of supporting material, and in the context of other applications being considered. Applicants should, therefore, provide a clear idea of the fellowship project. If applying to work in a different genre, applicants should consider including a sample of work that will assist judges to understand the writer's capacity to develop in that field.
- Judges will consider the potential benefit of a fellowship to the applicant.
- Judges reserve the right to undertake interviews with applicants if considered necessary.

# How to apply

There are four individual online application forms for the South Australian Literary Awards.

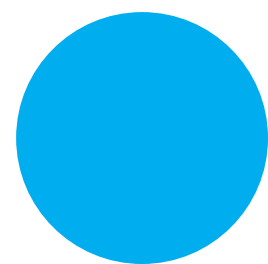
Application form	Use this form to apply for:
<p>National Awards for Published Works</p> <p>Note: Please complete a separate application form for each submitted work.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Fiction Award</li> <li>· Non-Fiction Award</li> <li>· Young Adult Fiction Award</li> <li>· Children's Literature Award</li> <li>· John Bray Poetry Award</li> </ul>
Jill Blewett Playwright's Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Jill Blewett Playwright's Award</li> </ul>
Arts South Australia Wakefield Press Unpublished Manuscript Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Arts South Australia Wakefield Press Unpublished Manuscript Award</li> </ul>
Fellowships for South Australian Writers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Barbara Hanrahan Fellowship</li> <li>· Max Fatchen Fellowship</li> <li>· Tangkanungku Pintyanthi Fellowship</li> </ul>

**Contact:**

South Australian Literary Awards  
 State Library of South Australia  
 email: [sa.literaryawards@sa.gov.au](mailto:sa.literaryawards@sa.gov.au)  
[www.slsa.sa.gov.au/2024-south-australian-literary-awards](http://www.slsa.sa.gov.au/2024-south-australian-literary-awards)

**Post:**

South Australian Literary Awards  
 State Library of South Australia  
 GPO Box 419  
 Adelaide SA 5001



# Terms & conditions

## How to apply

- Applicants must complete and submit the relevant award category online application form.
- Works must be submitted by post to GPO Box 419, Adelaide SA 5001.
- Works must be received by 5pm (ACST) on Friday 15 December 2023.
- Applicants will not receive an individual confirmation of receipt of their works.

## General eligibility for entry

- Authors must be living at the time of entry. If a prize is awarded to a recently deceased author, the prize money will be paid to the author's estate.
- Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted. Applications withdrawn by an applicant will not be returned.

## Intellectual property

- Entries must be wholly the original work of the author. At their discretion, the Awards and its judges may determine that an entry does not comply with this condition. In some circumstances, they may determine that an award is to be withdrawn and prize money is to be repaid to the State Library of South Australia.

## Disqualification

- The State Library of South Australia reserves the right to withdraw the South Australian Literary Award if a recipient has engaged in behaviour that could be seen to bring the South Australian Literary Awards or the State Library of South Australia into disrepute. The State Library of South Australia reserves the right to conduct criminal record checks if deemed necessary.
- It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the information provided is correct. Incomplete or incorrect entries may make it invalid. The State Library of South Australia has the right to withdraw the offer of prize money or require the return of prize money already paid, if any of the information provided in the application is false.

## General

- Winning and shortlisted applicants are expected to be available to undertake activities to promote the Awards during and up to when the next Awards are presented. Promotional activities may include media interviews (face-to-face or via electronic means), photographs or video content, personal appearances at functions promoting the Awards, program and events at the State Library of South Australia and, where possible, through the SA Public Library network.
- No person will be entitled to claim compensation for loss from the State Library of South Australia for any matter in connection with the Awards, including, but not limited to, a failure by State Library of South Australia to comply with the Terms and conditions.
- Breach of the Terms and conditions will make an application invalid.
- Submitted publications will not be returned after the judging process. Publications may be added to the collection of the State Library of South Australia.
- Copies of unpublished manuscripts and play scripts will be disposed of via secure shredding services. No correspondence will be entered into regarding the return of applications.
- While all reasonable care will be taken, the State Library of South Australia accepts no responsibility for loss or damage to submitted books or manuscripts.
- Unsuccessful applicants will not be advised personally of the results.