



## 2025 black&write! Writing Fellowships Guidelines

black&write! Writing Fellowships are awarded through a competition open to any Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander writer currently living in Australia.

Two Fellowship recipients each receive \$15,000, editorial development with the black&write! team, and a publication opportunity with University of Queensland Press (UQP).

Fellowship recipients will be expected to work cooperatively with our black&write! editors through the development period. Fellows are expected to commit to meetings with editors and the publishing partner. Fellows are expected to work on the manuscript in good faith with a view to submitting it to UQP at the end of the Fellowship period.

Fellows will enter into a contractual agreement with State Library of Queensland before their prize money is paid and before editing begins.

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### Information and Enquiries

If you have any questions, please contact us on:

**Email:** [Indigenous.writing@slq.qld.gov.au](mailto:Indigenous.writing@slq.qld.gov.au) **Phone:** (07) 3842 9985

### Privacy Statement

State Library of Queensland respects your privacy and is subject to privacy legislation which applies to the Queensland public sector — the [Information Privacy Act 2009](#). Personal information we collect is used only for our internal activities and functions (see [Libraries Act 1988](#)) and will not be discussed unless required by law. For more information, please read [State Library's privacy statement](#).

### How to enter

Please follow these steps to apply for a black&write! Writing Fellowship:

1. Read the **Guidelines**.

2. Prepare your **Entry Documents**.
3. **For electronic submissions:** Complete the online form (details below) and upload your documents through the website

OR email your completed entry form and documents to  
[Indigenous.writing@slq.qld.gov.au](mailto:Indigenous.writing@slq.qld.gov.au)

**For printed submissions:** Post or deliver your completed form and documents to our mailing address:

black&write! Writing Fellowships  
Level 2, State Library of Queensland  
PO Box 3488  
South Brisbane QLD 4101

4. Submit before the competition closes at **11:59 pm on Friday 31 January 2025.**  
Note: If you post your entry by 31 January, we will accept it (even if it arrives after this date).
5. You will receive a confirmation email from us once your application has been received and checked for eligibility.

## Entry guidelines

These will help you determine if your entry is eligible for the Fellowship competition:

- Entries that do not meet the guidelines will not be eligible.
- Eligibility of an entry will be determined by State Library. Any determination of eligibility made by State Library will be final.
- There is no limit to the number of entries an entrant may submit. However, each individual entry must be submitted as a separate entry.
- **Entry is free.**

## Entry documents

- Complete an **entry form** Find entry forms here: <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/form/2025-black-write-writing-fellows>
- Include a copy of your **Confirmation of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Descent/Letter of Confirmation** with a common seal from an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander incorporated community organisation. If you do not have a Confirmation Document, please contact us (contact details are on page 1).
- Include a copy of the **unpublished manuscript** you wish to work on during the Fellowship.

- If posting or delivering, you may provide copies of these documents on a USB or as a printed copy. Please note, we are unable to return any materials submitted.
- For illustrated manuscripts, copies of the illustrations should be provided. Please **do not** send us your original illustrations.

### **Entrant eligibility**

- You must be an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person.
- You must be currently residing in Australia.
- You must be available and able to complete manuscript development process with black&write! from May 2025 till at least December 2025.
- All ages are welcome. However, if you are under 18 years of age you must provide written consent from your parent or guardian to enter.
- You are eligible if you have previously published other books. The manuscript for the 2025 Fellowship must be unpublished.
- In general, only single-authored entries will be accepted. Joint-authored works may be considered but you must contact **black&write!** to discuss before submitting.
- Joint entries will be accepted for children's books with illustrations where there is a separate author and illustrator. They will be considered joint entrants, and one Fellowship prize will be split equally between the two creators.
  - Both entrants must meet eligibility requirements.
  - Both writer and illustrator must **each** complete an entry form and provide confirmation of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent.

### **Manuscript eligibility**

- These Fellowships are for new work.
- Manuscripts **must not** have been published previously, including self-published.
  - Previous publication of individual poems, or short stories, within the manuscript is accepted. Judges will determine whether the new work is sufficient to meet eligibility.
- Manuscripts should be formatted according to guidelines below.
- Manuscripts currently submitted to other writing competitions, or under submission or contract to a publisher or agent, or subject to contractual negotiations, are **not** eligible.
- Manuscript must be an original work of the entrant/s.
- Fiction manuscripts of any genre are eligible.
- Non-fiction manuscripts are **not** eligible. This includes memoir, biography, autobiography, narrative non-fiction, exegetical theses, and so on.
- Fiction and short story collection manuscripts should be a minimum of **50,000** words.

- Young adult manuscripts should be a minimum of **40,000** words.
- Poetry manuscripts should be a minimum of **30** poems.
- Children's book manuscripts have no word count requirement.
- The manuscript may be in English, Aboriginal English, Torres Strait Creole, an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander language, or a combination of these, including a bilingual text.

**Entries must be received by 11:59 pm on Friday 31 January 2025.**

## How to format your manuscript

Please format your manuscript in the following way:

- formatted in a **plain** font, 12-point font size
- pages should be numbered
- 2cm minimum margins on each side of page
- hardcopy entries should be typed, or word processed
- digital copies of the manuscript should be provided as a Microsoft Word document.

## Selection process

What happens after you submit your entry?

- The Fellowships will be awarded by State Library of Queensland on the advice of a judging panel with extensive knowledge of First Nations writing. The panel will be Chaired by the Senior Editor, black&write!
- All entries will be judged against the following criteria:
  - Literary and creative merit
  - Potential value of a Fellowship to the entrant's writing career
  - Development required to bring the manuscript to a publishable standard
  - Contribution to Australian literature.
- Every eligible entrant will receive individual comments on their manuscript. Due to the number of manuscripts received, the judges cannot provide a detailed manuscript appraisal.
- Judges may invite entries for consideration.
- No correspondence will be entered into once the decision has been announced.
- State Library reserves the right to:
  - not accept any ineligible, incomplete or late entries
  - not award a Fellowship

- determine if an entry is eligible or not.

## **Intellectual property**

We recognise and respect intellectual property rights of authors.

### **Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP)**

- Entrants who submit manuscripts and/or illustrations containing any ICIP must:
  - use their best endeavours to obtain informed consent for the use of ICIP from the relevant custodians.
  - not damage, endanger or disrespect that ICIP in their use of it.
- For information about use of ICIP, read the [Protocols for Using First Nations Cultural and Intellectual Property In The Arts](#) published by Creative Australia.

### **Intellectual property**

- Entering the competition does not, in any way, transfer or alter the entrant's ownership of any intellectual property vested in the manuscripts and/or illustrations submitted.
- Entrants must not, through the manuscripts and/or illustrations they submit, infringe or impede upon any intellectual property rights of any third party.

### **Moral rights**

- State Library respects the moral rights of all entrants to the competition.
- Entering the competition does not grant State Library the right to reproduce, whether in whole or in part, any manuscripts and/or illustrations submitted by entrants (except for internal reproduction for the sole purpose of facilitating the judging process).