



black&write! Partnership Statement December 2024

After a long and significant partnership with Hachette Australia, State Library of Queensland has formed a new agreement with University of Queensland Press (UQP) to publish black&write! titles from 2026.

The appointment is a result of an Expression of Interest process, which sought innovative proposals from Australian publishers to partner on the development and advancement of First Nations-led writing and editing through black&write!

black&write! is a highly regarded national project based at State Library of Queensland. Over the past 13 years the program has delivered significant benefits to Australian literature through extensive development of new First Nations writers and editors.

black&write! has played a crucial role in launching and amplifying the careers of extraordinary writers, including Ali Cobby Eckermann, Sue McPherson, Nardi Simpson, Jared Thomas, Claire G Coleman, Alison Whittaker, Tyliisa Elisara and many more.

State Library awards two black&write! Writing Fellowships annually to two Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander writers through a national unpublished manuscript competition. Each Fellowship includes a prize of \$15,000, manuscript development with black&write! editors and publication opportunities. The Fellowships aim to increase the publishing pathways for First Nations writers and increase the number of First Nations-authored books.

UQP is at the forefront of Indigenous publishing in Australia, with a long history of supporting and championing First Nations writers and editors. The partnership with black&write! also provides strategic opportunities to develop career pathways for black&write!'s trainee editors, adding skills to the sector in a culturally informed authoring environment.

UQP is also the publisher for two significant and well-regarded Queensland Literary Awards: the Glendower Award for an Emerging Queensland Writer, and the David Unaipon Award for an Emerging Aboriginal and/ or Torres Strait Islander Writer.

State Library acknowledges the many achievements from the longstanding and productive partnership with Hachette Australia. Through this collaboration State Library and Hachette have championed outstanding First Nations literature and positively impacted Australian readers. Hachette will publish several black&write! titles in 2025, including *Weaving us Together* by Lay Maloney, *Washpool* by Lisa Fuller and *Brightest Wild* by Tania Crampton-Larking.

black&write! is supported by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its arts funding and advisory body, and the Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund.