

## GUIDELINES

**CLOSING DATE: 5pm Monday 14 October 2019**

The NSW Government is committed to increasing public engagement with the arts. The annual NSW Premier's Literary Awards honour distinguished achievement by Australian writers. They contribute to Australia's artistic reputation and draw national and international attention to some of our best writers and to the cultural environment that nurtures them.

The Premier's Literary Awards were established in 1979. Past winners have included such notable writers as Michelle de Kretser, Peter Carey, David Malouf AO, Thomas Keneally AO, Bruce Pascoe, Leah Purcell, Jane Campion, Jaclyn Moriarty and Helen Garner.

Total prize money in 2020, including sponsored awards, is up to **\$305,000**. Entrants must be living Australian citizens or persons holding permanent resident status.

The NSW Premier's Literary Awards are presented by the NSW Government and administered by the State Library in association with Create NSW. We are pleased to acknowledge the support of Multicultural NSW and the University of Technology Sydney (UTS).

Nominations are sought for the following awards:

- Christina Stead Prize for Fiction
- UTS Glenda Adams Award for New Writing
- Douglas Stewart Prize for Non-fiction
- Kenneth Slessor Prize for Poetry
- Patricia Wrightson Prize for Children's Literature
- Ethel Turner Prize for Young People's Literature
- Nick Enright Prize for Playwriting
- Betty Roland Prize for Scriptwriting
- Multicultural NSW Award
- Indigenous Writers' Prize

*Other awards which may be given include: The Special Award, Book of the Year and The People's Choice Award. Nominations are not accepted for these awards.*

## ENTERING THE AWARDS

**Entries must be received by the State Library of NSW no later than 5pm on Monday 14 October 2019.** Entries should be submitted online. Hard copies of entry forms will not be accepted.

**All works must have been first published, performed, screened or broadcast and made publicly available between 1 October 2018 and 30 September 2019 with the exception of the Indigenous Writers' Prize which is biennial.**

## ENTRY FEE

**Please note that the entry fee is \$100 (including GST) for EACH nomination in EACH category** (with the exception of the UTS Glenda Adams Award, which is part of the Christina Stead Prize entry fee). If a work is entered into a category and the Multicultural NSW Award and/or Indigenous Writers' Prize, the entry fee to the second (and third) category is only \$50 each.

The following individuals are exempt from paying the entry fee:

- Australian Senior and Pensioner cardholders
- Tertiary student cardholders (e.g. ISIC)
- Australian Government cardholders (e.g. unemployed, healthcare cards)
- Australian Government Department of Veterans Affairs cardholders

Where the nomination is for a group of authors/illustrators, all authors/illustrators must be cardholders to be eligible for a payment exemption. Scanned or photocopied proof of your status as a cardholder must be provided in your online application or included with your nomination and sent to the Library by post.

Credit card payment is preferred and is available online as part of the nomination process. If paying by cheque, please make payable to the **State Library of New South Wales** (ABN: 19 665 924 697).

## CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

### General

- All works must be primarily in the English language.
- All reasonable care will be taken with works submitted, but no responsibility is accepted for loss or damage to books or other material.
- Applicants will receive an email confirmation and copy of their entry form on completion and submission of the online entry form. The State Library of NSW will acknowledge receipt of books. The State Library of NSW will contact any applicants if books have not arrived by the closing date.
- Works can be entered in multiple categories with additional entry fees applicable. (Please note that the UTS Glenda Adams Award is part of the Christina Stead Prize.)
- Books and other material will not be returned to applicants.

- Breach of the conditions of entry will render an entry invalid.
- In all cases not covered by these conditions and guidelines, the nominator should seek clarification from the State Library of NSW on (02) 9273 1605 or (02) 9273 1582 or at [awards@sl.nsw.gov.au](mailto:awards@sl.nsw.gov.au)

## Eligibility

- Writers and illustrators whose works are nominated must be living Australian citizens or persons holding permanent resident status.
- Works published overseas are eligible if the author is an Australian citizen or holds permanent residency.
- The nominated work must be the author's/illustrator's own work.
- If a nominee dies or ceases to hold permanent resident status after his or her work has been nominated, the judges will not consider his or her work for an award. If, however, the judges recommend an award to an eligible nominee and that nominee dies before the award is presented, the Government may, at its discretion, pay the prize money to the nominee's estate.
- All works nominated must be published in book or ebook form, except for the Nick Enright Prize, Betty Roland Prize, Multicultural NSW Award and Indigenous Writers' Prize.
- Books compiled by an editor and consisting principally of contributions from a number of writers are not eligible for entry, except for the Multicultural NSW Award. Please refer to the category definitions for more information.
- Works may not be entered in the name of a committee.
- Self-published books may be nominated, but unpublished manuscripts will not be considered.
- Novels, plays, scripts and collections of poetry which are, or contain, adaptations or re-workings of pre-existing works will be considered if they transform, rather than merely transmit, the intentions of the source work. The new work should attain a standard of achievement comparable to the source work. The new work should have been first published, produced, screened/performed within the eligible period.
- Material that has previously been published only in anthologies, literary journals, newspapers or equivalent online platforms is deemed to be new work and may be entered in the awards if it is published in book form within the eligible period.
- Revised editions of books will not be considered unless the revisions are so substantial that the book is, in effect, a new work. It is the nominator's responsibility to identify the new material and to include one copy of the original edition as part of the nomination.

- All nominated works must be publicly available: books and ebooks should have ISBNs and must be available for commercial sale; plays must have been performed before a general audience; and scripts must have been publicly screened/broadcast.
- It is the policy of the State Library of NSW that Award recipients have not and will not engage in behaviour that could be seen to bring the Award into disrepute. The State Library of NSW reserves the right to conduct criminal record checks if deemed necessary. The State Library of NSW has the right to withdraw the offer of prize money or demand the return of prize money already paid if it is discovered that any of the information provided in the application is false.
- The State Library of NSW expects that winning and shortlisted applicants of the NSW Premier's Literary Awards will be available to undertake activities to promote these awards up to and including the next year the Awards are presented. Activities may include media interviews (face-to-face or via electronic means), photographs or personal appearances at functions promoting these Awards, author events at the State Library, and, where possible, through the NSW public library network.

## Eligibility periods

- Books nominated for the Awards must have been **first published between 1 October 2018 and 30 September 2019**.
- Plays may be nominated for the Nick Enright Prize if **first performed between 1 October 2018 and 30 September 2019**.
- Film, radio and television scripts may be nominated for the Betty Roland Prize if programs have been **first publicly screened or broadcast between 1 October 2018 and 30 September 2019** (provided the scripts have not been nominated in previous years), please note this includes screenings at film festivals both in Australia and overseas and on streaming services such as Netflix and ABC iview.
- Works eligible for nomination for the NSW Premier's Literary Awards in a previous year are not eligible for nomination in this year's awards with the exception of the Indigenous Writers' Prize which is biennial.
- Electronic versions of previously published books will not be accepted. Print versions of books originally released electronically before the current eligibility period will not be accepted.

## Nominating a work

- Nominations may be made by authors, writers or illustrators or by their authorised representative: agent, publisher, professional theatre company, film distributor, production company or broadcasting company or corporation.
- People or organisations nominating works on behalf of an author are deemed to be nominating with the author's consent. It is the responsibility of the nominator to ensure that the author's consent is obtained before nominating the work. **The author's personal contact details must be included on the entry form, including direct phone and email details.**
- It is the responsibility of the nominator and the nominee/s to ensure that the information provided is correct and that the nomination is complete. Incomplete or incorrect nominations may render an entry invalid.
- There is no limit to the number of titles that may be entered by a nominator or author provided the works entered meet all other conditions of entry.
- Nominations must be made via the [online entry form](#) on the State Library of NSW website. Up to five works can be nominated on one form; if nominating more than five works, please complete and submit another form/s.
- Each nomination must be accompanied by **four copies of the work**, with the exception of the Douglas Stewart category where **six copies** must be provided. Entries to the Kenneth Slessor Prize, Nick Enright Prize, Betty Roland Prize and Indigenous Writers' Prize may be submitted as electronic versions or hard copies. Electronic versions are preferred for the Nick Enright Prize and Betty Roland Prize.
- Works can be entered in multiple categories. Each additional category nomination must be accompanied by an additional three copies of the nominated work. Please note that this does not apply to the subcategory prize the UTS Glenda Adams Award.
- ebooks entered into the fiction, non-fiction or children's categories must be accompanied by **bound copies of the printed text** for assessment purposes. In some cases, additional copies of a work may be requested by the judges.
- If not paying by credit card, a cheque for entry fee/s should be sent by post to the State Library along with the books.
- Category definitions are provided to assist applicants in selecting the appropriate category for a work. If the judges believe a book has been submitted in the wrong category of the NSW Premier's Literary Awards, or they believe it would be better judged in a different category, the State Library

representative will contact the nominating publisher/author/agent. The final decision on the category in which a book is considered will rest with the judges.

These general conditions of entry should be read in conjunction with the specific conditions for each prize and award which are set out on the following pages.

## THE JUDGING PROCESS

### General Assessment

**The awards honour distinguished achievement by Australian writers and literary merit is uppermost in assessing nominations.**

### Who assesses the nominations?

The awards will be judged by an independent committee of writers, academics, critics and other sector professionals who have been appointed by the NSW Premier or the Minister for the Arts or their delegates.

The committee will be divided into category panels with a minimum of three persons on each.

The committee as a whole will recommend the winner of Book of the Year and, if appropriate, a shortlist for the Special Award.

### What is the judging process?

Each panel will assess all nominated works in their category. Panels may request additional information on nominations from applicants at this stage of the process. A panel may also take action as it considers appropriate to encourage the nomination of eligible works not already entered.

Each panel will select a shortlist (containing no more than six titles per category) and prepare judges' comments.

If a panel decides against recommending an award in a particular category, the State Library of NSW and/or the NSW Premier may select a fourth judge to provide separate advice on the award.

The committee's final recommendations will be submitted to the NSW Premier and/or Minister for the Arts, who will publicly announce the lists approximately four weeks prior to the announcement of the winning titles. The shortlists, with the judges' comments, will be posted on the State Library of NSW website [www.sl.nsw.gov.au](http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au). There will be no notification for unsuccessful applicants.

The winners will be announced and the awards presented at a function on 27 April 2020 at the State Library of NSW.

The names of the winners, and the judges' comments, will be posted on the State Library of NSW website [www.sl.nsw.gov.au](http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au) after their announcement.

The decisions of the NSW Premier and/or Minister for the Arts will be final and no discussion or correspondence will be entered into concerning the decisions.

## 2020 PRIZES AND AWARDS

### The Christina Stead Prize for Fiction

The Christina Stead Prize (\$40,000) is offered for a book of fiction. The award may be made for a novel or a collection of stories. A collection of stories may contain some previously published work. In such a case the judges will determine whether the new work is sufficient, in quantity and quality, to merit an award. It is the nominator's responsibility to clearly identify previously published material. Works of creative non-fiction, including fictionalised memoirs, are eligible for consideration under this category, but not under the Douglas Stewart Prize.

Works of multiple authorship, including anthologies, are not eligible for nomination.

### The UTS Glenda Adams Award for New Writing

***This award is sponsored wholly by the University of Technology Sydney***

The winner of the UTS Glenda Adams Award is chosen from entries submitted for the Christina Stead Prize (no additional entry fee is required for this award). Entrants who meet the UTS Glenda Adams Award criteria should indicate on the entry form if their book is a debut work of fiction.

The UTS Glenda Adams Award (\$5,000) is for a published book of fiction written by an author who has not previously published a book-length work of narrative fiction or narrative non-fiction.

The Award seeks to recognise outstanding new literary talent. The winning author may produce an excellent piece of writing in a traditional fictional form or may challenge and expand the boundaries of the genre.

### The Douglas Stewart Prize for Non-fiction

The Douglas Stewart Prize (\$40,000) is for a prose work other than a work of fiction. Books including biographies, autobiographies and works of history, philosophy and literary criticism may be nominated



provided they display literary qualities. Oral histories are ineligible unless the author claims artistic responsibility for the majority of the text.

Books compiled by an editor and/or consisting of contributions of more than four writers are not eligible for the Douglas Stewart Prize.

An award will not be given for a work consisting principally of photographs or illustrations unless the text is of substantial length and of sufficient merit in its own right. In such cases, no part of the prize money will be paid to the photographer or illustrator.

**Nominators should be selective about the works entered into this category. Works must be considered literature.**

### The Kenneth Slessor Prize for Poetry

The Kenneth Slessor Prize (\$30,000) is offered to a poet for a book of collected poems or for a single poem of substantial length published in book form. A collection of poems may consist partly of work previously published in book form, but this work must be clearly identified by the nominator. In such cases the judges will assess only the new work and determine whether it is sufficient, in quantity and quality, to merit an award.

A collection of poems may be published in a book containing the work of up to four poets. The judges will exercise their discretion in determining whether the work of the nominated poet is sufficient to make it eligible for an award.

Entrants may submit electronic or hard copies of books for this Award. If submitting an electronic copy of the book entrants should upload an electronic file in their online nomination form (PDF, ePub and mobi files accepted).

### The Patricia Wrightson Prize for Children's Literature

The Patricia Wrightson Prize (\$30,000) is offered for a work of fiction, non-fiction or poetry written for children up to secondary school level. Books containing the work of more than four authors, including anthologies, are not eligible for nomination.

In the case of books containing original illustrations, the judges may determine that the award be shared by the writer/s and the illustrator.



## The Ethel Turner Prize for Young People's Literature

The Ethel Turner Prize (\$30,000) is offered for a work of fiction, non-fiction or poetry written for young people of secondary school level. Books containing the work of more than four authors, including anthologies, are not eligible for nomination.

In the case of books containing original illustrations which are integral to the success of the book, the judges may determine that the award be shared by the writer/s and the illustrator.

## The Nick Enright Prize for Playwriting

The Nick Enright Prize (\$30,000) is offered for a play or a work of music drama given its first production in Australia between 1 October 2018 and 30 September 2019. The production may be given by a professional or amateur theatre company, but it must involve a season of several performances before a general audience. Plays written by more than four authors are not eligible for this prize.

*Assessment will be made entirely on the literary merit of the written text, and not on the merits of a particular production. The text should translate to the stage and be performable.*

The prize money will be paid to the playwright/s. In the case of a work of music drama, the judges may decide that the award should be shared by the writer and the composer. In this instance, the composer must be a living Australian citizen or hold permanent resident status.

Works may be submitted in electronic format for this prize. Applicants should upload an electronic file in their online nomination form (PDF, ePub and mobi files accepted).

## The Betty Roland Prize for Scriptwriting

The Betty Roland Prize (\$30,000) is offered for the screenplay of a feature-length fiction film, for the script of a documentary film, for the script of a play or documentary for radio, or for the script of a television program (whether fiction or non-fiction).

A script will be eligible for consideration if a film or radio or television program has been first publicly screened or broadcast between 1 October 2018 and 30 September 2019, please note this includes at film festivals in Australia and internationally and on streaming services such as Netflix and ABC iview.

Scripts written by more than four authors are not eligible for this prize.

Only one episode, per writer, per series can be considered, with the exception of co-written episodes with a writer who has already submitted an entry.

Only the writer's original work will be considered for an award. The writer should submit the final shooting script to the judges for consideration. Where the writer has a strong preference for his or her own draft that differs from the final shooting script (provided it was the accepted draft for production) they are able to submit it. In the case of co-authored works, the writers should submit the entry jointly.

Works may be submitted in electronic format for this prize. Applicants should upload an electronic file in their online nomination form (PDF, ePub and mobi files accepted).

*Assessment will be made entirely on the literary merit of the written text, and not on the merits of the resulting film, radio or television program. The text should translate to the screen and be performable.*

## Multicultural NSW Award

***This award is sponsored wholly by Multicultural NSW***

The Multicultural NSW Award (\$20,000) is offered for

- a book of fiction or non-fiction, memoir or history
- a play, musical drama or comedy, theatrical monologue or other theatrical performance,
- a book of collected poems or a single poem of substantial length published in book form,
- the screenplay of a feature or documentary film or episode of a television program (drama, comedy or documentary), or
- the script of a radio play or documentary

which is deemed by the judges to have made a significant contribution to Australian literature, poetry, theatre, film, radio or television and which also considers:

- any aspect of the Australian migration experience; and/or
- aspects of cultural diversity and multiculturalism in Australian society.

The Multicultural NSW Award may be awarded to either:

- a book or collection first published between 1 October 2018 and 30 September 2019;
- a play or music drama which has had a premiere season given by an amateur or professional theatre company before a general audience between 1 October 2018 and 30 September 2019; or
- the original writer's script for a feature or documentary or episode of a television program (drama, comedy or documentary). The film, radio or television program must have been publicly screened or broadcast between 1 October 2018 and 30 September 2019, this includes at film festivals both in Australia and internationally and on streaming services such as Netflix and ABC iview.

Collaborative works and projects, anthologies or collected works may be considered, with the editor being nominated for the award on behalf of the title.

Academic titles may be considered eligible, based on literary merit requirements.

Books, scripts, screenplays, and musical comedy and drama books may be nominated specifically for this award by their authors, publishers, agents or producers. The judges may request that a work entered in another category be transferred for assessment for this category, if deemed eligible, and the entrant will be informed of this and their permission will be sought.

## Indigenous Writers' Prize

The NSW Premier's Indigenous Writers' Prize (\$30,000) is offered biennially.

The prize is intended to acknowledge the contribution made to Australian literary culture by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander writers. The prize is open to those who are of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent, who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders, and who are accepted as such by the communities in which they live.

Entrants may be asked to provide the judging panel with confirmation of Aboriginality. Please refer to the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies for more information.

<http://aiatsis.gov.au/research/finding-your-family/confirmation-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-heritage> You must provide additional information and documentation promptly if the judging panel asks you to do so.

The Prize is designed to recognise literary merit and promote works in all categories including fiction, non-fiction, poetry, books for children and young adults, plays and scriptwriting. Entrants to the Indigenous Writers' Prize are also eligible to enter their work in any of the other award categories, and entry fees will apply for each category entered.

Co-authored entries will only be considered if both writers are of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent.

All works entered must have been first published, performed, screened or broadcast between **1 October 2017 and 30 September 2019**.

## The Book of the Year

The committee may choose from among the winners of the awards a 'Book of the Year', and the Government may, at its discretion, make an additional payment of \$10,000 prize money to the writer of the work so designated.

## The Special Award

The Special Award is not open for public nomination. In **exceptional circumstances**, the judges may propose that a Special Award of \$10,000 be made, either for:

- an Australian literary work that is not readily covered by the existing Awards categories, or
- in recognition of an Australian writer's achievements generally, or
- in recognition of the contribution to the literary life of Australia.

Past recipients of this award include AD Hope, Judith Wright, Nick Enright, Ruth Park, Ruby Langford Ginibi, Rosemary Dobson, Thomas Keneally AO, Katharine Brisbane, David Williamson AO and Libby Gleeson.

The Special Award is made at the discretion of the Government.

## The People's Choice Award

The annual People's Choice Award was introduced in 2009 to mark the thirtieth anniversary of the NSW Premier's Literary Awards. The People's Choice Award is not open to entry rather the winner is selected from the titles shortlisted for the Christina Stead Prize for Fiction. There is no prize money associated with this Award. Voting details will be posted on the State Library of NSW Website [www.sl.nsw.gov.au](http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au).

## PRIVACY NOTICE

Personal information collected by the State Library of NSW is treated in accordance with the State Library of NSW Privacy Management Plan and is governed by the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998* and related regulations. Information provided on the application form will only be used for purposes related to the awards, which may include advertising or promoting the NSW Premier's Literary Awards and award presentation events. Unless expressly requested, images of individuals present at award presentation events may be used for promotional purposes. Nominations for an award must only be submitted with the author's consent and knowledge of the Privacy Notice. Please visit [www.sl.nsw.gov.au/privacy/privacy-management-plan](http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/privacy/privacy-management-plan) or email [privacy@sl.nsw.gov.au](mailto:privacy@sl.nsw.gov.au) for further information.

## Right to Information

Under some circumstances, information pertaining to nominations and administration of the awards may be released, subject to consultation, in response to an application request made in accordance with the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*.

## NOMINATION CHECKLIST

1. Read the 2020 NSW Premier's Literary Awards guidelines, including the Privacy Notice
2. Complete the online application form <https://awards.sl.nsw.gov.au/pla/2020>
3. Where electronic submissions are being made file names should include the name of the author and the title of the work
4. Send copies of your work/s to the State Library of NSW by **5pm, Monday 14 October 2019**

Each nomination must include:

- required copies of work/s (four copies for each category entered. Six copies for the Douglas Stewart Prize. Not applicable for works submitted electronically in the Nick Enright, Betty Roland, Indigenous Writers' Prize and/or Kenneth Slessor Prize categories)
- a cheque if online credit card payment has not been made
- photocopied proof of government cardholder status if claiming fee exemption if not provided in the online nomination form

### Postal address

2020 NSW Premier's Literary Awards  
NAME OF CATEGORY(S) ENTERED  
State Library of NSW  
Macquarie Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

### Courier address/ Hand delivery

2020 NSW Premier's Literary Awards  
NAME OF CATEGORY(S) ENTERED  
State Library of NSW  
Loading dock, Hospital Road  
Sydney NSW 2000

## Enquiries and Nomination Forms

The online nomination form can be found on the State Library website:

<https://awards.sl.nsw.gov.au/pla/2020>. For more information contact: Senior Project Officer, Awards,  
Phone: (02) 9273 1605 or (02) 9273 1582, [awards@sl.nsw.gov.au](mailto:awards@sl.nsw.gov.au)