

# 2021 Victorian Premier's Literary Awards

## Conditions and Guidelines

### Eligibility

1. Authors must be living at the time of entry. For the Fiction, Non-fiction, Poetry, Drama and Writing for Young Adult Awards, authors must be Australian citizens or permanent residents of Australia. For the Award for Indigenous Writing, authors must be Aboriginal Australian and/or Torres Strait Islander.

2. The 2021 Victorian Premier's Literary Awards are for books published in English and made available to Australian readers during the eligibility period of 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2020.

2.1 Short stories are eligible if they are entered as a published collection by a single author.

2.2 Ineligible works include; single poems, essays or short stories published in anthologies with multiple contributors or in literary journals.

2.3 These Awards are for new work. Works will not be eligible if a significant proportion has been previously published in a book. Material that has previously been part published only in anthologies or literary journals is deemed to be new. To this end, it is the publisher's or nominator's responsibility to identify such previously published material clearly.

2.4 E-books are eligible for the Awards if it is the work's original publication format.

2.5 Self-published works are eligible for entry if they have an International Standard Book Number (ISBN) and are available to the general public via more than one distribution channel.

2.6 If an eligible book has not been published by close of entries on Monday 28 September 2020, the manuscript of the book can be submitted as a printed and bound proof along with a PDF file.

### Authorship

3. The Victorian Premier's Literary Awards are for original works as defined above. The following guidelines define authorship:

3.1 Works co-authored by more than two authors are ineligible, except where there is a significant creative collaboration across the entirety of the work. For example, oral histories and collectively-authored works may be considered. Essay collections and edited anthologies with more than two contributors, where each chapter or section is written by a different individual writer, are not eligible. It is the responsibility of the

nominator to acknowledge joint authorship correctly. Please contact us to discuss the eligibility of a co-authored book with more than two authors if you have any questions.

3.2 The nominated work must be the author's own original work.

3.3 Works may not be entered in the name of a committee.

## **General**

4. All works must be in English. Bilingual editions where one of the languages used is English are also eligible.

5. All reasonable care will be taken with works submitted but no responsibility is accepted for loss or damage to books or other material received as nominations.

6. No work can enter more than one Victorian Premier's Literary Award category, except works entered in the Award for Indigenous Writing. These works can also enter one of the five Victorian Premier's Literary Award categories for which they are eligible.

7. In all cases not covered by these conditions and guidelines, or where there may be scope for interpretation, the nominator should seek clarification from the Awards Coordinator at [vpla@wheelercentre.com](mailto:vpla@wheelercentre.com) or 03 9094 7800.

8. The Wheeler Centre administers the Awards on behalf of the Premier of Victoria. In all matters relating to conditions of entry, the decision of the Wheeler Centre in consultation with the Premier is final. In all matters relating to judging of the Victorian Premier's Literary Awards, the decision of the Wheeler Centre in consultation with the judges and the Premier of Victoria, is final.

9. Breach of the conditions of entry will render an entry invalid.

## **Nomination**

10. An entry form for each work must be submitted online. Physical copies of the nominated work must be mailed and a PDF file of the nominated work, along with a printed copy of the confirmation email received as part of the online submission. Please check delivery details and address once entries open on Monday August 31, 2020. Works will not be returned.

11. Works may be submitted by writers, publishers, production companies or literary agents. 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 entry requirements.

12. People or organisations nominating works on behalf of an author must be nominating with the author's consent. It is the responsibility of the nominator to ensure and demonstrate that the author's consent is obtained before nominating the work.

13. If you are unable to complete the online entry form, please contact the Awards Coordinator at [vpla@wheelercentre.com](mailto:vpla@wheelercentre.com) or 03 9094 7800 well in advance of the closing date to make alternative arrangements.

14. Nomination forms and copies of the nominated titles must be received by the Wheeler Centre no later than 5.00pm (AEST) Monday 28 September 2020. Entries received after the deadline will not be eligible.

### **Entry Fee**

15. An entry fee of \$75 including GST applies for each entry in all categories, unless the entrant is a full Small Press Network member whereby the entry fee will be waived for up to 5 entries per publisher. If a book is being simultaneously entered in both the Award for Indigenous Writing and another Award category, one entry form can be submitted and only one entry fee needs to be paid.

16. Payment can be made four ways:

- online via the online form (preferred)
- via cheque or money order
- via direct funds transfer
- via EFTPOS or credit card

### **Number of Copies Required**

17. The number of copies of works that need to be submitted is specified in the information provided for each category. In the event of a work being shortlisted, additional copies may be required. In addition to hard copies, works must also be submitted as an electronic PDF file using the naming convention: **surname\_initial\_title.pdf**

### **The Award for Fiction**

18. The Award for Fiction is offered for a novel or collection of short stories by a single author and first published and made available in Australia between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2020.

19. Six (6) hard copies AND a PDF file of the nominated book must be submitted. If hard copies are unavailable, you may submit a PDF file of the nominated book.

### **The Award for Non-fiction**

20. The Award for Non-fiction is offered for a work of non-fiction first published and made available in Australia between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2020.

21. Books consisting principally of photographs or illustrations will be ineligible unless the accompanying text is of substantial length. As a guide this is approximately 60,000 words.

22. Seven (7) hard copies AND a PDF file of the nominated work must be submitted. If hard copies are unavailable, you may submit a PDF file of the nominated book.

## **The Award for Poetry**

23. The Award for Poetry is offered for a significant selection of new work by a poet, first published and made available in Australia between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2020.

24. Five (5) hard copies AND a PDF file of the nominated work must be submitted. If hard copies are unavailable, you may submit a PDF file of the nominated book.

## **The Award for Drama**

25. The Award for Drama is offered for scripts written for theatre, musical theatre or radio that fulfil one of the following criteria:

25.1 Theatre and musical theatre scripts first produced in Australia by a professional theatre company for an audience between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2020. Workshops or readings are not deemed to constitute professional performance.

25.2 Theatre and musical theatre scripts that were scheduled to be first produced in Australia by a professional theatre company for an audience between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2020 and whose productions were disrupted by COVID-19 restrictions are eligible. Workshops or readings are not deemed to constitute professional performance. You must provide a form of proof that identifies that the script was scheduled for production in 2020. For example: A webpage that illustrates the scheduled production or contract/agreement that illustrates the production was due to take place through a venue hire, company season, festival, etc. within this period. Works entering due to disruptions in productions because of COVID-19 restrictions, cannot enter a future Victorian Premier's Literary Award even if they are produced for the first time for an Australian audience.

25.3 Radio scripts first broadcast within Australia between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2020.

25.4 Radio scripts that were scheduled to be first broadcast in Australia between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2020 and whose broadcasts were disrupted by COVID-19 restrictions are eligible. You must provide a form of proof that identifies that the script was scheduled for broadcasting in 2020. For example: A contract/agreement that illustrates that the script was due to be broadcast within this period. Works entering due to disruptions in productions because of COVID-19 restrictions, cannot enter a future Victorian Premier's Literary Award even if they are produced for the first time for an Australian audience.

26. The Award for Drama will be made primarily on an assessment of the literary merit of the work nominated and not on the merits of a particular production.

27. Adaptations will be eligible if, in the view of the judges, they represent a significant and creative transformation of the original text.

28. Works that have previously been performed overseas are eligible so long as the time between the Australian premiere and overseas premiere isn't more than 2 years.

29. For productions premiering after the entry closing date of September 28 without a final performance script, please contact the Awards Coordinator to discuss eligibility to be entered into the following years awards.

30. Five (5) hard copies AND a PDF file of the nominated work must be submitted (and where music has been a component of the work, four (4) CDs or USBs (with clearly labelled MP3 files on each) should also be included. Where scripts have not been published a PDF file of the script can be sent. For musical theatre nominations, four (4) copies of the vocal score and script must be submitted together with four (4) copies of a recording of the work, either on CD, DVD or USB. Where orchestral/band scores of the work are available, four (4) copies should also be submitted.

### **The Award for Writing for Young Adults**

31. The Award for Writing for Young Adults is offered for a published work written for a readership aged between 13 and 18 years old, first published and made available for sale in Australia between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2020. Publishers may also submit books that are appropriate to young adult readers but not published under a young adult imprint.

32. Literary merit will be the major judging criterion. In the case of illustrated books, the additional criteria of literary and artistic unity will be considered.

33. Five (5) hard copies AND a PDF file of the nominated work must be submitted. If hard copies are unavailable you may submit a PDF file of the book.

### **The Award for Indigenous Writing**

34. The Award for Indigenous Writing is a biennial Award to recognise excellence in all literary categories of work written by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander authors. This includes fiction, non-fiction, poetry, plays, works for children.

35. The Award is open to those who are of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent, who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islanders, and who are accepted as such by their communities.

36. Works of joint authorship are eligible for entry on the condition that at least fifty per cent of the creative work is by the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander author.

37. Anthologies are not eligible for this Award.

38. Books must have been first published and made available in Australia between 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2020.

39. Five (5) hard copies AND a PDF file of the nominated work must be submitted, in addition to any copies already submitted if the title is also being entered in one of the other Victorian Premier's Literary Awards. If hard copies are unavailable, you may submit a PDF file of the nominated book.