

2020 Victorian Premier's Literary Awards

Conditions and Guidelines

General

1. All works must be in English. Bilingual editions where one of the languages used is English are also eligible.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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 Co-ordinator Hiroki Kobayashi on 03 9094 7805.
5. 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.
6. Breach of the conditions of entry will render an entry invalid.

Eligibility

7. For the fiction, non-fiction, poetry, drama and young adult awards, authors must be Australian citizens or permanent residents of Australia.
8. These awards are for works first made available to Australian readers during the eligibility period.

The following guidelines define this:

- 8.1 For the fiction, non-fiction, poetry, drama and young adult awards, eligible books will be those first published in English between 1 January 2019 and 31 December 2019, and made available to Australian readers between these dates.
- 8.2 Ineligible works include short stories, other than in a published collection by a single author; single poems published in anthologies or literary journals.
- 8.3 Books will not be eligible if a significant proportion has been previously published in book form. Judges are asked primarily to assess new work. To this end it is the publisher's or nominator's responsibility to identify such material clearly. Material that has previously been published only in anthologies or literary journals is deemed to be new.
- 8.4 Ebooks are eligible for the awards if this is the work's original publication format.
- 8.5 Self-published works are eligible for this award, but must have an International Standard Book Number (ISBN) and be available to the general public via more than one distribution channel.
- 8.6 If an eligible book will not have been published by close of entries on Monday 30 September 2019, the manuscript of the book can be submitted as a printed and bound proof along with a PDF file.

Authorship

9. The Victorian Premier's Literary Awards are intended to be writers' awards, for works as defined above. The following guidelines define authorship:

9.1 Works co-authored by more than two authors are ineligible. Co-authorship is defined here as meaning joint responsibility by no more than two authors for the entire text. It is the responsibility of the nominator to acknowledge joint authorship correctly, where applicable.

9.2 Works of multiple authorship, including anthologies, are not eligible for nomination and may not be entered under the name of one of the authors, or of the editor.

9.3 The nominated work must be the author's own work.

9.4 Oral histories are ineligible unless the author claims artistic responsibility for a substantial part of the text.

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

Nomination

10. Each entry must be submitted online. Physical copies of the nominated work must be mailed to the Wheeler Centre, along with a printed copy of the confirmation email. 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 are deemed to 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. Without prejudice to the general conditions and guidelines, judges reserve the right to consider works that are eligible but have not been submitted.

14. If you are unable to complete the online entry form, please contact the Awards Co-ordinator Hiroki Kobayashi on 03 9094 7805 well in advance of the closing date to make alternative arrangements.

15. Nomination forms and copies of the nominated titles must be received by the Wheeler Centre by 5.00pm Monday 30 September 2019.

Entry Fee

16. An entry fee of \$75 including GST applies for each entry in all categories, unless the entrant is a full SPN 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.

17. 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

18. 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

19. This award is offered for a published novel or collection of short stories.

20. Six (6) hard copies and a PDF file of the nominated book should be submitted. If hard copies are unavailable you may just submit a PDF file of the nominated book.

The Award for Non-fiction

21. This award is offered for a published work of non-fiction.

22. Books consisting principally of photographs or illustrations will be ineligible unless the accompanying text is of substantial length.

23. Seven (7) hard copies and a PDF file of the nominated work should be submitted. If hard copies are unavailable you may just submit a PDF file of the nominated book.

The Award for Poetry

24. This award is offered for a significant selection of new work by a poet, published in a book.

25. Five (5) hard copies and a PDF file of the nominated work should be submitted. If hard copies are unavailable you may just submit a PDF file of the nominated book.

The Award for Drama

26. This award is offered for scripts written for theatre, musical theatre or radio.

27. Entries must fulfil one of the following criteria:

27.1 Theatre and musical theatre scripts first produced in Australia by a professional theatre company for an audience between 1 January 2019 and 31 December 2019. Workshopping or a reading is not deemed to constitute professional performance.

27.2 Radio scripts first broadcast within Australia between 1 January 2019 and 31 December 2019.

28. It is intended that the award for drama will be made primarily on an assessment of the literary merit of the works nominated and not on the merits of a particular production.

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

30. Five (5) hard copies and a PDF file of the nominated work should be submitted (and where music has been a component of the work, four CDs or USBs (with clearly labelled mp3 files on each) should also be included). Where scripts have not been published you may just submit a PDF file of the script. For musical theatre nominations, four copies of the vocal score and script should be submitted together with four copies of a recording of the work, either on CD, DVD or USB. Where orchestral/band scores of the work are available, four copies should also be submitted.

The Award for Writing for Young Adults

31. This award is offered for a published work written for a readership between the ages of 13 and 18. Publishers may also consider submission of 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 should be submitted. If hard copies are unavailable you may just submit a PDF file of the nominated book.

The Award for Indigenous Writing

The biennial award for Indigenous writing will next be awarded in 2021 for books published between 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2021. Entries will open in 2020.