



## 2021 black&write! Writing Fellowships Guidelines

The black&write! Writing Fellowships are awarded through an annual writing competition, which is open to any writer (published and unpublished) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent currently living in Australia.

Fellowship recipients receive \$10,000, editorial development through black&write! and a publication opportunity. Fellowship recipients will be expected to work cooperatively with the black&write! editors through to the completion of their development period.

### How to enter

Applications must be submitted **by 5pm on Monday 1 February 2021**. Please follow these steps to apply:

1. Read through the **entry guidelines**.
2. Prepare your documents (complete manuscript, Confirmation of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Descent/Letter of Confirmation).
3. Complete the **online entry form** and **upload** your documents. The form can be found here: <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/get-involved/fellowships-awards-residencies/blackwrite/entry>

**For printed entries:** please post your completed **entry form**, manuscript, and support material to the address below before the closing date:

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

4. You will receive a confirmation email from the black&write! team once your complete application has been received and checked for eligibility.

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### Information and Enquiries

For further information and enquiries, please contact black&write! on:

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

**Phone:** (07) 3842 9985

## Entry Guidelines

- There is **no** entry fee.
- All entries must include a completed **entry form** which can be found on the State Library of Queensland website at <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/get-involved/fellowships-awards-residencies/blackwrite/entry>
- Entries that do not meet the **entry guidelines** will not be eligible.
- All entries must be the work of the entrant.
- Entries must include a copy of a **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.
- Fiction and short story collection manuscripts must be a minimum of **50,000** words.
- Young adult manuscripts must be a minimum of **40,000** words.
- Poetry entries must be a minimum of **30** poems.
- Children's book entries have no word count requirement.
- Non-fiction entries are **not** eligible for black&write! Fellowships.
- In general, only single-authored entries will be accepted, with the exception of an illustrator for the children's book category. Where a children's book is submitted with illustrations, the author and illustrator will be considered joint entrants and the Fellowship prize will be split equally between the two entrants.
- Joint-authored works may be considered but entrants must contact **black&write!** to discuss prior to submitting the entry.
- Applicants under 18 years of age must provide consent from a parent or guardian to enter.
- Eligible manuscripts 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.
- There is no limit to the number of eligible entries per writer. However, each individual entry must comply with the entry guidelines and be submitted as a separate entry.
- Entries currently submitted to other writing competitions, or under contract to a publisher or agent, or subject to contractual negotiations, are **not** eligible.
- Printed manuscripts and or documents on CD/USB submitted for judging will not be returned.

## Selection process

- The Fellowships will be awarded by State Library of Queensland on the advice of a judging panel with extensive knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander writing.
- Every eligible entrant will receive individual comments on their manuscripts. Due to the number of manuscripts received the judges cannot provide a detailed manuscript appraisal.
- The judges' decision on the eligibility of an entry will be final. 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.

## How to format your manuscript

All manuscript entries must be submitted in the following format:

- double spaced lines
- 2cm minimum margins on both sides of page
- printed on one side of page only
- typed or word processed
- pages must be numbered
- formatted in **plain** font, 12 point font size
- the entrant's name to appear only on the **first** page of the manuscript
- a digital copy of the manuscript in Microsoft Word format on CD / USB. **Please note that this is not required for electronic submissions.**

If submitting an illustrated children's book:

- Both writer and illustrator must **each** complete an entry form and provide confirmation of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent.
- Any illustrations must be submitted as copies/scanned; no original illustrations will be accepted at entry stage.
- Illustrations must be included in printed copies and also supplied digitally on CD / USB. **Please note that printed copies are not required for electronic submissions.**

**Entries must be received by Monday 1 February, 5pm**