

STATE LIBRARY OF QUEENSLAND

MEDIA RELEASE

15 April 2024

black&write! Fellowships shortlist announced

Six First Nations authors have been shortlisted for State Library of Queensland's prestigious black&write! Fellowships. The winners will be announced on **Tuesday 14 May**.

The shortlisted authors are:

- 'The Dangers of Just One Person' – Skye Cusack (Vic) – Young adult fiction
- 'Daemon in the Garden' – Matthew Gall (Qld) – Adult fiction
- 'ma-li' – Lulu Houdini (NSW) – Poetry
- 'Tangled Words in Ghost Nets' – Maree Yoelu (NT) – Poetry
- 'Black and White' – Mariah Sweetman (Qld) – Adult fiction
- 'To Clear Your Throat of Fish' – Meleika Gesa-Fatafehi (Qld) – Poetry

The unique fellowship program, which has produced 17 new published books, has been introducing exciting new First Nations writers to the Australian and international literary scenes since 2011.

black&write! titles have redefined genres, attracted commercial and critical success and helped provide future opportunities for First Nations writers.

The two winners will receive prize money, manuscript development with State Library's black&write! editors and a publication opportunity with Hachette Australia. Former winners include Sue McPherson, Jared Thomas, Nardi Simpson and Claire G. Coleman.

The black&write! Fellowships are open to all writers (published and unpublished) of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent currently living in Australia. The fellowships are open to adult fiction, young adult fiction, short story collection, poetry collection and children's book manuscripts.

Quotes from State Librarian and CEO Vicki McDonald AM:

"This trail blazing fellowship program is in its 14th year and plays a significant role in bringing more First Nations voices to bookshelves around the world.

"The program provides a culturally safe space for Indigenous writers and editors to explore and develop their talents and build collaborative relationships within an Indigenous-led community of practice.

"Elevating the voices and stories of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander writers is a key part of our commitment to truth-telling in Queensland."

black&write! is supported by the Australian Government, through Creative Australia, its principal arts investment and advisory body, the Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund and Fellowships publishing partner Hachette Australia.

More information: [black&write!](#) | [Media kit](#) | media@slq.qld.gov.au | (07) 3840 7897