




Queensland
Literary Awards
2026

**TERMS AND
CONDITIONS**



The Queensland Literary Awards (QLAs) showcase outstanding writers from across Australia and celebrate literary excellence with 12 Published Book and Development Awards across the following categories:

Published Book Awards

- Queensland Premier’s Award for a Work of State Significance
- The University of Queensland Non-Fiction Book Award
- The University of Queensland Fiction Book Award
- Young Adult Book Award
- Children's Book Award
- Judith Wright Calanthe Award for a Poetry Collection
- Steele Rudd Award for a Short Story Collection (biennial award)
- People’s Choice Queensland Book of the Year Award

Development Awards

- David Unaipon Award for an Emerging Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Writer
- Manuscript Award for an Emerging Queensland Writer
- Queensland Premier’s Young Publisher and Writer Award
- Queensland Premier’s Regional Publisher and Writer Award

Brisbane Writers Festival is proud to manage the QLAs in collaboration with sponsors, the literary community and industry partners. The QLAs are supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, category sponsors, grants and philanthropic donations.

Key Dates

- Entries open Tuesday 31 March 2026
- Entries close **5:00pm AEST Thursday 30 April 2026**
- Shortlists announced late July
- People’s Choice voting closes 5:00pm AEST Thursday 10 September
- QLAs ceremony will be held on **Thursday 8 October 2026**

CONTACT US

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c/-Brisbane Writers Festival

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FORTITUDE VALLEY QLD 4006



TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

- Nomination forms must be received online by **5:00 pm AEST on 30 April 2026**. Late entries will not be accepted.
- The QLAs do not accept hard copies of entry materials. Digital copies of support materials must be received by **5:00 pm on 30 April 2026**. In the Published Book categories, you must provide **one (1) PDF copy of each book nominated**. If you are entering the same book in multiple categories, you must complete a separate nomination form for each category, upload the PDF copy of the publication, and pay the relevant fee. Manuscripts for Development Awards must also be submitted in PDF form.
- Entries deemed ineligible will not be refunded. Entries withdrawn by a nominator will not be refunded.
- The QLAs will not return any copies of nominations.
- QLAs staff and awards judges may invite nominations from writers and publishers. The conduct of inviting nominations does not give rise to any legal or equitable relationship.
- Entries must be the whole and original work of the author/s (and, if applicable, the illustrator/s) and subject to copyright. At their discretion, QLAs staff and judges may determine that an entry does not comply with this condition. To assist with determination of originality and eligibility, entries must acknowledge where artificial intelligence has been used in the production of the work and in what context.
- Where supplied information is later found to have been incomplete or inaccurate, judges may determine that an award is to be withdrawn and prize money is to be repaid to the QLAs.
- Nominees must be living at the time of entry. If a nominee dies or ceases to hold permanent status after their work has been entered, the judges will not consider the work for an award. If, however, judging has concluded and an award is recommended to an eligible nominee who dies or ceases to hold permanent resident status before the award is presented, the QLAs may, at its absolute discretion, pay the prize to the nominee or nominee's estate.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

- The nominator must have consent for the author's (and, if applicable, the illustrator's) details to be used and disclosed where appropriate for editorial, advertising or promotional purposes in conjunction with the 2026 QLAs and the ongoing QLAs program. (See Privacy notice on the last page of this document).
- Arts Queensland may also request this information for marketing, promotional and media requirements, reporting requirements, record keeping and archival requirements, including as required by law under the Public Records Act 2002.
- Award winners and finalists should be prepared to participate in a small number of local and national media opportunities at the time of, and in the year following, being awarded.
- No person will be entitled to claim compensation for loss from the QLAs for any matter in connection with the QLAs, including, but not limited to, a failure by the QLAs to comply with the conditions of nomination.
- The QLAs reserve the right to change the conditions of nomination and to cancel or vary the awards process at any time, whether before, on or after the closing date.
- Breach of conditions may render a nomination invalid.
- In all matters relating to nomination conditions and the judging process, the decisions of the judges are final. No correspondence will be entered into. Judges reserve the right not to award a prize in any category.
- At their discretion, judges may include highly commended entries, and this recognition will be listed on the QLAs website. Highly commended authors are not eligible for prize money.
- Judging panels may request additional information from authors or nominators. QLAs staff will manage any such requests.
- Judges have the right to move a nomination to a different category if they deem the category to be more relevant. QLAs staff will manage any such requests.

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible

All authors, co-authors, co-creators and illustrators must be:

- Australian citizens or permanent residents of Australia, and
- at least 18 years of age, or provide written consent from a parent or guardian to nominate, and
- living at the date of nomination.

Published Book Award entries must:

- be first published between 1 May 2025 and 30 April 2026, inclusive (excepting the biennial Steele Rudd Award for a Short Story Collection, for which a book must be first published between 1 May 2024 and 30 April 2026, inclusive)
- be available for general sale in Australia between 1 May 2025 and 30 April 2026, inclusive
- not be previously published prior to May 2025 (or, for the biennial Steele Rudd Award for a Short Story Collection, prior to 1 May 2024)
- have an International Standard Book Number (ISBN)
- be first published primarily in English
- primarily comprise text (except in the children's and young adult categories). Works consisting primarily of images, pictures, photographs or illustrations are ineligible unless the accompanying text is judged to be of sufficient literary merit. Graphic novels may be entered into relevant categories assuming they contain substantial accompanying text of sufficient literary merit.

Published works of co-authorship are eligible, except for the Judith Wright Calanthe Award for a Poetry Collection and the Steele Rudd Award for a Short Story Collection.

- Co-authorship is defined as joint responsibility by 2 or more authors and/or illustrators for the entire work. For QLAs consideration, the maximum number of permissible co-authors is 3 (this may vary according to category-specific criteria).
- If the winning nomination is a co-authored work, the Queensland Literary Award will be awarded to all authors, co-authors, co-creators and illustrators of the work. They will share the prize money equally.
- Nominators must indicate co-authorship at the time of nomination. If co-authors, co-creators or illustrators are missing from a nomination, they may be added by QLAs staff during eligibility processing, in consultation with the nominator.

Nominations must also comply with category-specific criteria.

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Not eligible

- Books published prior to 1 May 2025 (or, for the biennial Steele Rudd Award for a Short Story Collection, published prior to May 2024).
- Books showing a trade publication date of May 2026 onwards and with stock released early for selective promotional events, such as literary festivals.
- Works consisting primarily of images, pictures, photographs or illustrations, unless the accompanying text is judged to be of sufficient literary merit (children’s picture books and graphic novels are exempt from this rule, though graphic novels must have a substantial amount of text and display sufficient literary merit).
- Oral histories, audiobooks, translated texts and pamphlet publications.
- Anthologies, journals or books compiled by an editor, committee, organisation or author consisting principally of contributions from several writers.
- Works that breach Queensland laws.
- Nominations that do not fulfil the general eligibility criteria and/or the eligibility criteria specific to the award category entered.



CATEGORY-SPECIFIC ELIGIBILITY: PUBLISHED BOOK AWARDS

The QLAs offer Published Book Awards across five categories: the Queensland Premier's Award for a Work of State Significance; The University of Queensland Non-Fiction Book Award; The University of Queensland Fiction Book Award; the Judith Wright Calanthe Award for a Poetry Collection; and the Steele Rudd Award for a Short Story Collection (biennial award).

The following Category-Specific Eligibility Criteria and information operate in tandem with QLAs General Eligibility Criteria.

QUEENSLAND PREMIER'S AWARD FOR A WORK OF STATE SIGNIFICANCE (\$30,000)

Supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland

Awarded to an outstanding work by a Queensland author or an outstanding work by an Australian writer that tells a Queensland story.

- This category is open to all Australian authors.
- Judges will award this prize to the nomination of the highest literary merit that also:
 - tells a Queensland story, and/or
 - is by a Queensland author.
- Eligible works will profile or contain important Queensland stories, authors, history or voices and/or have increased awareness and profile of Queensland writing.
- Published books in the following genres are eligible in this category: short story collections, poetry collections, novels, graphic novels, children's books, young adult books, plays, biographies, autobiographies, memoirs and other works of non-fiction.
- Must also meet QLAs General Eligibility Criteria.

THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND NON-FICTION BOOK AWARD (\$15,000)

Supported by The University of Queensland

Awarded to an outstanding work of non-fiction for adults by an Australian writer.

Eligible works

- Biographies, autobiographies, memoirs, histories, philosophy, literary criticism, science writing books, and works dealing with contemporary issues, including true crime.
- Must also meet QLAs General Eligibility Criteria.

CATEGORY-SPECIFIC ELIGIBILITY: PUBLISHED BOOK AWARDS

THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND FICTION BOOK AWARD (\$15,000)

Supported by The University of Queensland

Awarded to an outstanding work of fiction for adults by an Australian writer.

Eligible works

- Novels and novellas.
- Must also meet QLAs General Eligibility Criteria.

Ineligible works

- Short story collections.

YOUNG ADULT BOOK AWARD (\$15,000)

Awarded to an outstanding work suitable for young adults 13 to 19 years of age by an Australian writer.

Eligible works

- Must be suitable for teenagers aged 13–19.
- Must also meet QLAs General Eligibility Criteria.

CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARD (\$15,000)

Awarded to an outstanding work suitable for children up to 12 years of age by an Australian writer.

Eligible works

- Must be suitable for children up to 12 years of age.
- Must also meet QLAs General Eligibility Criteria.

CATEGORY-SPECIFIC ELIGIBILITY: PUBLISHED BOOK AWARDS

JUDITH WRIGHT CALANTHE AWARD FOR A POETRY COLLECTION (\$17,500)

Supported by the Copyright Agency Cultural Fund

Awarded to an outstanding published collection of poetry by an Australian writer.

Eligible works

- Single-authored collections of poetry in book form.
- This award is for collections that primarily or wholly comprise new work. A collection of poetry may contain some previously published work.
- Must also meet QLAs General Eligibility Criteria.

Ineligible works

- Anthologies or collections comprising poems by more than one writer.
- Works with a significant proportion of content that has been previously published or could be considered by a reasonable reader as being a 'retrospective' or a 'best of'. Judges will determine whether the new work is sufficient to meet eligibility. Nominators may need to contact the awards team for more information before entering.

STEELE RUDD AWARD FOR A SHORT STORY COLLECTION (BIENNIAL AWARD) (\$15,000)

Awarded to an outstanding published short story collection by an Australian writer.

Eligible works

- This award is for collections that primarily or wholly comprise new work. A collection of short stories may contain some previously published work.
- Must also meet QLAs General Eligibility Criteria.

Ineligible works

- Anthologies or collections comprising stories by more than one writer.
- Works with a significant proportion of content that has been previously published or could be considered by a reasonable reader as being a 'retrospective' or a 'best of'. Judges will determine whether the new work is sufficient to meet eligibility. Nominators may need to contact the awards team for more information before entering.

CATEGORY-SPECIFIC ELIGIBILITY: PUBLISHED BOOK AWARDS

PEOPLE'S CHOICE QUEENSLAND BOOK OF THE YEAR AWARD (\$15,000)

Awarded to an outstanding book by a Queensland author, as voted by the public.

Eligible works

- Books by Queensland authors who are currently living in the state and can show proof of address.

Award process

- Nominators do not submit nominations directly to this award category. The shortlist is derived in the following manner:
 - When a nominator enters a book into The University of Queensland Fiction Book Award or The University of Queensland Non-Fiction Book Award, they must indicate that the writer is a Queensland author. These Queensland-authored books form the **eligible list**.
 - Judges for The University of Queensland Fiction Book Award and The University of Queensland Non-Fiction Book Award categories will nominate 4 books (2 books each) from the eligible list for the shortlist. 4 additional works will be added to the shortlist from the eligible list based on performance derived from Queensland sales and borrowing data.
 - A public online vote on the shortlist (open to anybody in Australia, one vote per person) will run from the date of the shortlist announcement through to Thursday 10 September. The book that receives the highest number of votes wins.
 - Must also meet QLAs General Eligibility Criteria.



CATEGORY-SPECIFIC ELIGIBILITY: DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

The QLAs offer Development Awards across four categories: the David Unaipon Award for an Emerging Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Writer; the Manuscript Award for an Emerging Queensland Writer; the Queensland Premier’s Young Publisher and Writer Award; and the Queensland Premier’s Regional Publisher and Writer Award.

The following Category-Specific Eligibility Criteria and information operate in tandem with QLAs General Eligibility Criteria.

DAVID UNAIPON AWARD FOR AN EMERGING ABORIGINAL AND/OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER WRITER

Supported by the Copyright Agency Cultural Fund

Awarded for an outstanding unpublished manuscript by an emerging Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander writer.

Eligible

- All emerging Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander writers defined as:
 - being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent, and
 - identifying as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person, and
 - being accepted as such by the communities in which they live or have lived or worked.
- Emerging Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander writers who have never been published before.
- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander writers who have previously published individual short stories, poems, articles or essays in magazines, journals, anthologies or newspapers in print or online, but who have not had a full-length written work published.
- Co-authored (no more than 2 creators) manuscripts. All authors must comply with all eligibility criteria.
- Manuscripts can be in any literary category, including novels, short story collections, poetry collections, stories for children, biographies, autobiographies and memoirs, and general non-fiction.
- Must also meet QLAs General Eligibility Criteria.

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CATEGORY-SPECIFIC ELIGIBILITY: DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

DAVID UNAIPON AWARD FOR AN EMERGING ABORIGINAL AND/OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER WRITER

Supported by the Copyright Agency Cultural Fund

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Ineligible

- Writers who have had any full-length written work (book of fiction or non-fiction, published script/play, collection of poetry or short stories) published by a trade publisher or other conventional publisher.
- Writers who have previously self-published a full-length work with an ISBN.
- Writers with an existing publishing contract or who are in current contract negotiations; the manuscript itself must not be currently entered in other writing competitions or under submission to a publisher.
- Writers entering the 2026 Manuscript Award for an Emerging Queensland Writer.
- Manuscripts that are straight exegeses, academic monographs or play scripts.

Additional author requirements for this category

- Entries must include a copy of a document that confirms Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent. This might be a letter of confirmation with a common seal from an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander incorporated community organisation, or a confirmation of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander heritage, or a statutory declaration form that is witnessed and signed appropriately.
- Please contact the awards team on +61 7 3216 0694 or enquiries@qlas.com.au if you have any questions about this requirement.

Manuscript requirements

- We recommend entering a finished, full-length manuscript, although judges will consider early draft manuscripts.
- Typically, the word count will be between 40,000 and 100,000 words (except for poetry collections and children's books, which can be of any length).
- Manuscripts can incorporate an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander language.
- If you have entered a manuscript in the past, you are welcome to submit it again.

To submit

1. **Manuscript:** Use a plain font such as Times New Roman or Arial in 12-point font size. Use double line spacing with a 3 cm page margin. Number all pages and included the title of the manuscript on each page. The manuscript must be in Microsoft Word (preferred) or PDF format.
2. **Cover letter:** Introduce yourself to the judges – give a brief biography and outline any relevant writing or educational experience and any publication history.
3. **Synopsis:** A one-page outline that summarises the manuscript.

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Queensland Literary Awards 2026

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

CATEGORY-SPECIFIC ELIGIBILITY: DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

DAVID UNAIPON AWARD FOR AN EMERGING ABORIGINAL AND/OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER WRITER

Supported by the Copyright Agency Cultural Fund

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Other award information

- The prize includes \$20,000 plus manuscript development and publication with University of Queensland Press (UQP).
- UQP will offer a contract with industry-standard terms. After this, their editorial staff will work with the winning author on their manuscript towards publication.
- UQP will offer a contract to the winning author for their work to be published. If the author accepts the offer, UQP will have exclusive worldwide publishing rights to the winning manuscript, subject to mutually agreed terms and conditions.
- UQP will develop and publish the winning manuscript, subject to normal publishing terms and conditions.
- By entering this award, all shortlisted authors agree to grant UQP first right of refusal to offer to publish the work for an exclusive period of 12 weeks after the shortlist announcement. This means that an author's work must not be sent to other publishers or competitions until UQP has decided whether to offer a contract. 'First right of refusal' does not guarantee an offer of publication will be made.
- It is recommended that all shortlisted authors and the winning author/s seek their own legal or professional advice prior to entering into any publishing agreement.

CATEGORY-SPECIFIC ELIGIBILITY: DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

MANUSCRIPT AWARD FOR AN EMERGING QUEENSLAND WRITER

Awarded for an outstanding unpublished manuscript by an emerging Queensland writer.

Eligible

- Queensland residents who can provide proof of their current Queensland address.
- Emerging writers who have never been published before.
- Writers who have previously published individual short stories, poems, articles or essays in magazines, journals, anthologies or newspapers in print or online, but who have not had a full-length written work published.
- Manuscripts in this category can be novels, collections of short stories, novels for children (9+ years of age) and young adults, biographies, autobiographies and memoirs, and general non-fiction.
- Must also meet QLAs General Eligibility Criteria.

Ineligible

- Writers who have had any full-length written work (book of fiction or non-fiction, published script/play, collection of poetry or short stories) published by a trade publisher or other conventional publisher.
- Writers who have previously self-published a full-length work with an ISBN.
- Writers with an existing publishing contract or who are in current contract negotiations; the manuscript itself must not be currently entered in other writing competitions or under submission to a publisher.
- Writers entering the 2026 David Unaipon Award for an Emerging Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Writer.
- Poetry collections, picture books, straight exegeses, academic monographs or play scripts.

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CATEGORY-SPECIFIC ELIGIBILITY: DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

MANUSCRIPT AWARD FOR AN EMERGING QUEENSLAND WRITER

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Manuscript requirements

- Entries should be between 40,000 and 100,000 words (except for middle-grade novels for children 9+ years of age, which can be 30,000 words and over).
- If you have entered a manuscript in the past, you are welcome to submit it again.

To submit

1. **Manuscript:** Use a plain font such as Times New Roman or Arial in 12-point font size. Use double line spacing with a 3 cm page margin. Number all pages and include the title of the manuscript on each page. The manuscript must be in Microsoft Word (preferred) or PDF format.
2. **Cover letter:** Introduce yourself to the judges – give a brief biography and outline any relevant writing or educational experience and any publication history.
3. **Synopsis:** A one-page outline that summarises the manuscript.

Other award information

- The prize includes \$15,000 plus manuscript development and publication with University of Queensland Press (UQP).
- UQP will offer a contract with industry-standard terms. After this, their editorial staff will work with the winning author on their manuscript towards publication.
- UQP will offer a contract to the winning author for their work to be published. If the author accepts the offer, UQP will have exclusive worldwide publishing rights to the winning manuscript, subject to mutually agreed terms and conditions.
- UQP will develop and publish the winning manuscript, subject to normal publishing terms and conditions.
- By entering this award, all shortlisted authors agree to grant UQP first right of refusal to offer to publish the work for an exclusive period of 12 weeks after the shortlist announcement. This means that an author's work must not be sent to other publishers or competitions until UQP has decided whether to offer a contract. 'First right of refusal' does not guarantee an offer of publication will be made.
- It is recommended that all shortlisted authors and the winning author/s seek their own legal or professional advice prior to entering into any publishing agreement.

CATEGORY-SPECIFIC ELIGIBILITY: DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

QUEENSLAND PREMIER'S YOUNG PUBLISHER AND WRITER AWARD (\$15,000)

Awarded to an outstanding emerging Queensland writer and/or publisher up to 30 years of age.

Eligible

- Queensland residents who can provide proof of a current Queensland address.
- Writers born in Queensland who now live elsewhere and can demonstrate strong, continuing ties with the state.
- Writers and publishers up to and including 30 years of age as at 30 April 2026 (proof of age must be submitted).
- Individual writers with a steady professional history, and individual publishers with a steady professional history (co-produced work is acceptable, but only individuals will be awarded).
- Writers and publishers of all forms, including novels, short stories and/or poems, works for children, biographies and memoirs, plays and scripts, and non-fiction works, including journalism; comics and graphic novels are eligible if they include substantial written text of sufficient literary merit.
- Writers who can demonstrate at least one or a combination of the following publication outcomes:
 - one full-length published book (including electronic or online publications with an ISBN)
 - 5 short works of fiction or non-fiction published in literary journals, edited anthologies, major newspapers or national magazines (print and/or online)
 - 10 poems published in literary journals, anthologies, newspapers or magazines (print and/or online)
 - an industry-related Substack, blog, podcast or equivalent that has existed for at least 2 years, with evidence of a wide following and regular (at least monthly) new content
 - a full-length performance script (theatre or film) that has premiered in Australia.
- Publishers who can demonstrate the following publication outcomes:
 - a selection of up to 5 examples of publishing in all its forms (in print, online or a combination of media) that shows a commitment to creating publication or presentation avenues for Queensland literature and stories
 - examples may include, but are not limited to, small press publications, electronic journals, zines, podcast series and live literature performances.
- Must also meet QLAs General Eligibility Criteria.

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CATEGORY-SPECIFIC ELIGIBILITY: DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

QUEENSLAND PREMIER'S YOUNG PUBLISHER AND WRITER AWARD (\$15,000)

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Ineligible

- Co-authored work, collectives, partnerships or groups.
- Writers who are not Queensland residents or who cannot demonstrate strong ties to the state.
- Writers who are currently funded through the Queensland Writers Fellowship program.

Nomination requirements

Your online nomination form must include:

- a one-page cover letter outlining your eligibility for this award
- a detailed CV with full publication history (max. 4 pages)
- writers: a portfolio of up to 6 pieces of writing, including at least one item published in the previous 12 months
- publishers: a portfolio of up to 5 publications or documented productions, including at least one item produced in the previous 12 months.

Files should be no bigger than 16 MB. Please contact awards staff if your file is larger than this.

CATEGORY-SPECIFIC ELIGIBILITY: DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

QUEENSLAND PREMIER'S REGIONAL PUBLISHER AND WRITER AWARD (\$15,000)

Awarded to an outstanding emerging regional Queensland writer and/or publisher of any age.

Eligible

- Regional Queensland residents who can provide proof of a current regional Queensland address. Entrants must reside in an area outside the Local Government Area of Brisbane City Council.
- Individual writers with a steady professional history, and individual publishers with a steady professional history (co-produced work is acceptable, but only individuals will be awarded).
- Writers and publishers of all forms, including novels, short stories and/or poems, works for children, biographies and memoirs, plays and scripts, and non-fiction works, including journalism; comics and graphic novels are eligible if they include substantial written text of sufficient literary merit.
- Writers who can demonstrate at least one or a combination of the following publication outcomes:
 - one full-length published book (including electronic or online publications with an ISBN)
 - 5 short works of fiction or non-fiction published in literary journals, edited anthologies, major newspapers or national magazines (print and/or online)
 - 10 poems published in literary journals, anthologies, newspapers or magazines (print and/or online)
 - an industry-related Substack, blog, podcast or equivalent that has existed for at least 2 years, with evidence of a wide following and regular (at least monthly) new content
 - a full-length performance script (theatre or film) that has premiered in Australia.
- Publishers who can demonstrate the following publication outcomes:
 - a selection of up to 5 examples of publishing in all its forms (in print, online or a combination of media) that shows a commitment to creating publication or presentation avenues for Queensland literature and stories
 - examples may include, but are not limited to, small press publications, electronic journals, zines, podcast series and live literature performances.
- Must also meet QLAs General Eligibility Criteria.

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CATEGORY-SPECIFIC ELIGIBILITY: DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

QUEENSLAND PREMIER'S REGIONAL PUBLISHER AND WRITER AWARD (\$15,000)

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Ineligible

- Co-authored work, collectives, partnerships or groups.
- Writers who do not reside in regional Queensland.

Nomination requirements

Your online nomination form must include:

- a one-page cover letter outlining your eligibility for this award
- a detailed CV with full publication history (max. 4 pages)
- writers: a portfolio of up to 6 pieces of writing, including at least one item published in the previous 12 months
- publishers: a portfolio of up to 5 publications or documented productions, including at least one item produced in the previous 12 months.

Files should be no bigger than 16 MB. Please contact awards staff if your file is larger than this.

NOMINATION PROCESS

Nomination process for Published Book Award categories

- You must complete an online nomination form by **5:00 pm AEST, 30 April 2026**. If you wish to nominate a publication for more than one award category, you must complete a separate nomination form for each category and pay the relevant fee.
- As part of the online nomination process, you will be asked to upload a copy of the nominated book in PDF format. The maximum file size is 16 MB, but please contact us if your file is larger than this. All files and (where relevant) supplementary material must be also uploaded by **5:00 pm AEST, 30 April 2026**.
- At the end of the nomination form, you will be directed to our secure payment portal, where you can pay the nomination fee.
- At the end of the nomination form, you can opt to receive a copy of your nomination, which will be emailed to you. The QLAs team will only be in touch if we require clarification about the nomination.
- If you are a publisher nominating multiple titles, please contact us on nominations@qlas.com.au and we will send you a bulk nomination form and contact you directly to arrange payment.

Nomination process for Development Award categories

- You must complete an online nomination form by **5:00 pm AEST, 30 April 2026**.
- You must attach all required documents to the online nomination form (refer to the specific category to determine the required documents). The maximum file size is 16 MB, but please contact us if your files are larger than this. All files and (where relevant) supplementary material must be also uploaded by **5:00 pm AEST, 30 April 2026**.
- After submitting the online nomination form, you will receive an automatic confirmation email. The QLAs team will only be in touch if we require clarification about the nomination.

The person listed as the 'nominator' will be the contact person for all information relating to that nomination. Books may be submitted by authors, publishers, literary agents or interested third parties. However, any third party who nominates a book on behalf of an author is responsible for ensuring and demonstrating, if requested, that the author's consent has been obtained prior to the nomination.

NOMINATION FEES

Published Book Awards:

Full fee: \$55 (inc. GST) per nomination

Concession fee: \$45 (inc. GST) per nomination

The concession fee is applicable if the author of the nominated work holds one of the following valid Australian concession cards: Pensioner Concession Card, Health Care Card or Low Income Health Care Card, Commonwealth Seniors Health Card, tertiary student card, Veteran Card issued by the Australian Department of Veterans' Affairs, Seniors Card.

Development Awards are free to enter.

PRIVACY NOTICE

The QLAs team at Brisbane Writers Festival is committed to protecting your privacy. We collect your personal information [e.g., name, authorised bio, contact details] directly from you to facilitate administration and promotion of the QLAs.

If you do not provide this information, we may be unable to process your application and determine your eligibility, or to fulfil our promotional and reporting commitments.

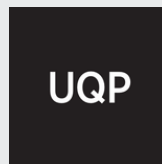
We may disclose your information to relevant stakeholders [e.g., funding partners and sponsors, assorted media and social platforms while promoting shortlists and winners] to help the QLAs team deliver on our promotional, organisational and reporting commitments.

PARTNERS AND SPONSORS

Government Partner



Category Sponsors



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Want to support the QLAs as an organisation or individual?
Get in touch with us at enquiries@qlas.com.au.