



Australian Government

2008 Prime Minister's Literary Awards Guidelines for Entries

The Prime Minister's Literary Awards celebrate the contribution of Australian literature to the nation's cultural and intellectual life. The awards recognise literature's importance to our national identity, community and economy.

The awards have two categories:

- Fiction
- Non-Fiction.

Works may be entered in either the fiction or non-fiction category of these awards but may not be entered in both.

Fiction Book Award—\$100 000

- Awarded to the author of a fiction book first published between 1 January 2007 and 31 December 2007.
- Entries in this category may be works written for an adult or young adult (12–16 years) audience.

Non-Fiction Book Award—\$100 000

- Awarded to the author of a literary non-fiction book first published between 1 January 2007 and 31 December 2007.
- Eligible non-fiction works include biography, autobiography, history, philosophy, literary criticism and works dealing with contemporary issues.
- Works compiled by an editor are excluded.
- Works consisting mainly of photographs or illustrations are excluded, unless the accompanying text is judged to be of sufficient length and merit in its own right.

Conditions of entry

All entries must be received in hard copy by the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts by 2pm, Friday 28 March 2008 (Australian Eastern Standard Time).

The decision of the Prime Minister's Literary Awards judging panel is final. The conditions governing the awards may change without notice.

Eligibility

- Authors must be citizens or permanent residents of Australia.
- Authors must be living on the date of entry.
- Works must be first published in the English language and offered for general sale between 1 January 2007 and 31 December 2007.
- A work shall be eligible for a Prime Minister's Literary Award even if it is nominated or short-listed for, or is selected as a winner of, other awards or prizes. However, works cannot win both a Prime Minister's Literary Award and a Prime Minister's Prize for Australian History.
- Self-published works are not eligible. This includes any arrangement whereby an author pays a third party to publish a work.
- At least 750 copies of the work must have been published by the entry date for a work to be eligible for entry.
- Works must have been published in book form. Internet only publication is not sufficient.
- Eligible works shall have no more than two authors.
- The Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (the Department) may request supporting documentation in relation to any or all of the above eligibility criteria at any time.
- The Department's decision upon the eligibility of an entry shall be final.

Authorship

- Works of joint authorship are eligible. Joint authorship is defined as the joint responsibility of two authors for the entire text. If a winning entry is a work of joint authorship, each author will receive 50 per cent of the prize money.
- The work must be the work of the author or authors.
- Works may not be entered in the name of a committee or corporation.

Closing date and time

A signed entry form and five (5) bound copies of the relevant work must be received by the Literary Awards Coordinator by 2pm on Friday 28 March 2008 (Australian Eastern Standard Time).

- The Department reserves the right, in its absolute discretion, not to accept incomplete or late entries.
- Receipt of entries will be acknowledged by email. Please allow seven (7) working days to receive this acknowledgment.

Entries

- A separate entry form must be completed for each entered title.
- Works may be entered in either the fiction or non-fiction category of these awards but may not be entered in both.
- Works may also be entered for the Prime Minister's Prize for Australian History and may be short-listed for both that prize and a Prime Minister's Literary Award but are eligible to win only one of these awards or prizes.
- There is no entry fee for the Prime Minister's Literary Awards.
- Works may be entered by publishers, literary agents and authors.
- The submitted copies of works shall become the property of the Australian Government and shall not be returned to the entrant.
- Works entered may be distributed to public or educational libraries following the awards ceremony.
- All reasonable care will be taken, however no responsibility is accepted, for loss or damage to submitted copies or for entries that are not received by the due time and date.
- Breach of these guidelines may render an entry invalid whether prospectively or retrospectively.

Confidentiality

- With the exception of personal information in Section 3 of the entry form, the Department gives no undertaking to keep confidential any information provided with entries for the awards.

Judging

- The awards will go to the entries deemed to possess the highest literary merit.
- Two separate panels, each of three judges, will consider the fiction and non-fiction awards.
- The judges may at their discretion call for works which have not been entered in the awards.
- The judges reserve the right not to recommend a particular award in any year if they consider that the entered works are not of sufficient merit.
- It is important that the judging process is free from interference. In order to ensure a transparent process, any author, publisher or literary agent who attempts to lobby or undertakes discussions or corresponds with a judge of these awards in relation to an entry or entries may be permanently disqualified from these awards.
- The Prime Minister will make the final decision on the awarding of the awards, taking into account the recommendations of the judges.
- The decisions of the Prime Minister and the judges are final and no discussion or correspondence will be entered into concerning these decisions.

Winning entries

- Publishers may print '2008 Prime Minister's Literary Awards Short List' and 'Winner of the 2008 Prime Minister's Literary Awards' on subsequent printings of relevant works.
- The Australian Government is preparing legislation to exempt the awards from income tax, but at the time of printing these guidelines the legislation is yet to be passed.

Note

The Australian Government expects that the recipients of the Prime Minister's Literary Awards will from time to time assist in publicly promoting Australian literature.

For this reason recipients should be prepared to undertake a small number of local public engagements at the time of, and in the year following, their award.