



Australian Society of **Authors**



The Australia Council's Writers/Illustrators Initiative 2009 Managed by the Australian Society of Authors

Guidelines

Emerging writers grants

The Australian Society of Authors (ASA) is managing the Australia Council's emerging writers grants in 2009, under a program whose formal title is "The Australia Council's Writers/Illustrators' Initiative managed by the Australian Society of Authors". The ASA will assess applications and pay grants totalling \$175,000.

Emerging writers grants assist in the creation of new work by emerging Australian writers and picture book illustrators. Developing and established writers and illustrators can apply for a New Work grant through the Literature Board of the Australia Council by the closing date of 15 May 2009. For more information, please visit the Australia Council website.

Emerging writers grants can be used for living allowances (including childcare) and/or to assist with travel and research costs associated with the preparation and writing of nominated projects.

Individual grants will be for \$5,000, \$10,000 or \$15,000.

Projects must start on or after 1 November 2009.

Applications open on 1 June and close on 30 June 2009. You do not need to be an ASA member to apply.

Eligibility criteria (Question 4)

To be eligible to apply, you must have achieved any of these publication/performance requirements in genres in which applications are accepted. Work in genres in which applications are not accepted cannot be listed. (See Project genres, below).

- 10 short works of fiction or literary non-fiction in professional literary journals, anthologies, general national magazines or major newspapers
- 10 prose pieces professionally performed (eg radio readings, live performances)
- 25 different poems in professional literary journals, anthologies, general national magazines or major newspapers

- 15 different articles (minimum 1000 words each) in general national magazines or major newspapers
- Two playscripts workshopped or one short play performed
- Two substantial scripts (minimum 15 minutes of original text per script) or six short scripts (minimum three minutes of original text per script) broadcast on radio
- Two children's picture books or two children's books not exceeding 20,000 words published by a professional publisher with national distribution
- Three comic books, three issues in a comic book series or three zines published by a professional publisher or self-published with national distribution
- A combination of the above (such as five short stories and 13 poems)

You must demonstrate that you meet the eligibility criteria by listing your publications/performances at question 4 on the application form. You can establish your eligibility in one genre, e.g. poetry, and apply for a grant in another, e.g. fiction.

Co-authored works can be listed if you are the sole author of at least 50% and your work can be precisely identified, e.g. the illustrations or text in a children's picture book.

On-line publications can be listed if they have been subjected to an editorial review process with a named editor or editorial committee, none of whom is you. You must give the website address and include a copy of the publication's submission guidelines, along with the name and contact details of an editor.

Self-published works can be listed if they have been distributed to all states and territories or via a website, and have been reviewed in an established literary journal or nationally distributed magazine or major newspaper.

Project genres (Question 5)

Applications will be accepted for projects in these genres:

- Fiction
- Literary non-fiction (defined as autobiography, biography, essays, histories, literary criticism or analytical prose)
- Children's literature
- Young adult literature
- Poetry
- Graphic novels/comics
- Writing for performance (theatre, radio)
- New media (digital, interactive, cross-media).

You can apply for a project in multiple or hybrid genres.

Applications will **not** be accepted in these genres: film and television scripts; textbooks and other works created for primary, secondary and tertiary educational purposes; newsletters; books which are primarily works of interviews; local and oral histories; military studies; instruction manuals; how-to books; academic theses or course work; bibliographies; dictionaries; encyclopaedias; professional reference titles; guide books; catalogues; self-help, lifestyle and hobby books; or works of physical or natural sciences, theology, psychology, cooking, medicine or law.

Applications to translate literary work are not eligible.

Applications to write in languages other than English are not eligible.

Please note that the project may be a component of a larger project. For example, you can apply for a grant for part or all of the research, writing or illustration component of a larger project.

Project description (Question 6)

You should provide a 1–2 page description of your project.

The project description should clearly set out what you want to do and how you propose to do it.

The description must be no more than 2 pages, 1.5 or double-spaced, no smaller than 12-point type with margins of at least 2 cm.

Sample of your work (Question 7)

You must include a sample of your work in the genre in which you are applying. If you are working in what is a new genre for you, please mention this in your project description. If the sample is at an early stage of development, this should also be noted.

The sample of your work can be published, unpublished, illustrated or a mix of these – but it cannot exceed 10 pages and it must be entirely your own work. If the sample is unpublished it must be on white A4 paper, double-spaced, in 12-point type and with margins of at least 2 cm.

Please note that the sample will not be returned.

Selection criteria

Applications will be assessed against these selection criteria:

- The creative substance of the project
- An ability to engage the reader/intended audience, as demonstrated by the sample of your work
- Literary merit, understood to encompass an assessment of the applicant's writing ability, focusing on style, appropriateness of form, skilled use of language, clarity of expression and sustained development of themes or ideas, as demonstrated by the sample of your work

Assessment process

Applications will be read and assessed at a full-day meeting to be held in Sydney in September. The assessment panel will comprise a member of the Literature Board of the Australia Council plus four to five other assessors with experience and expertise in at least two genres. Assessors will be drawn from as many states and territories as possible.

Your application will be read in full by at least two assessors with experience and expertise in that genre.

The successful applications will be selected by consensus.

Please note that the assessment panel will not be able to provide comments or feedback.

Critical dates

Applications open on 1 June and close on 30 June 2009.

Acknowledgements will be sent the week beginning 20 July 2009.

Results will be announced by letter in October 2009.

Projects must start on or after 1 November 2009.

If after reading the guidelines and application form you need more information, please call Jill at the ASA on 02 9318 0877 or email jill@asauthors.org