
Information and Terms & Conditions

Northern Territory Literary Awards 2026

Entries to all categories in the 2026 Northern Territory Literary Awards will open **Monday 9 March 2026** and close at midnight on **Monday 11 May 2026**.

The online entry form must be submitted by the closing date. Entries received after this date will not be accepted.

Receipt of entry will be via email through the Submittable online system. Please allow seven days to receive acknowledgement.

Shortlisted entrants will be notified via email in July. Winners will be announced at the awards ceremony in September.

Categories:

Brown's Mart Theatre Award

Theatre script with a performance time of more than 30 minutes

Charles Darwin University Creative Non-Fiction Award

A factually-accurate work written with attention to literary style and technique up to 3,000 words

Charles Darwin University Essay Award

A referenced academic essay on a topic relating to the Northern Territory with a word limit of 3,000 words

Flash Fiction Award

A blog post, fan fiction, short story, fictional diary entry or fictional letter up to 500 words, limited to three entries per person

Kath Manzie Youth Award

An original work of short fiction or up to three separate poetry entries by a person aged 12 to 18 years on first of January for year of entry. Poems have a 300-line limit and short stories up to 3,000 words

NT Writers' Centre Poetry Award

A single poem up to 300 lines, limited to three entries per person

Zip Print Short Story Award

An original work of short fiction up to 3,000 words

Terms & Conditions

1. Entries:

- 1.1 Entrants may submit up to 2 separate entries in the following categories:
 - Theatre
 - Creative Non-Fiction
 - Essay
 - Short Story
- 1.2 Entrants may submit up to 3 separate entries in the following categories:
 - Flash Fiction
 - Poetry
- 1.3 Entrants in the Kath Manzie Youth Award category may submit up to 3 separate poetry entries or one short story.
- 1.4 **No single work can be entered into multiple categories.**
- 1.5 Entries in all categories except Poetry must be formatted at 1.5 line spacing and a minimum of 12-point font size, saved as a Microsoft Word or Text document.
- 1.6 Entries in the Essay category must use endnotes formatted in Chicago style for referencing: https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-1.html
- 1.7 Word counts will be strictly adhered to and entries exceeding word counts will be invalid. Endnotes are not included in the word count.
- 1.8 The online entry form can be accessed through the LANT website: <https://lant.nt.gov.au/northern-territory-literary-awards>
- 1.9 Feedback will not be provided to applicants.
- 1.10 Judging is completely anonymous. To ensure anonymity, only the title of the work should appear on the entry submission. The author's name or other identifying marks must not appear on the entry.
- 1.11 The decision of the judges is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- 1.12 Library & Archives NT reserves the right not to award a prize.

2. Publication:

- 2.1 Shortlisted and winning works will be published in the 2026 edition of the Northern Territory Literary Awards publication available in print and online. For previous publications, visit: <http://lant.nt.gov.au/northern-territory-literary-awards-past-winners>

- 2.2 At the discretion of Library & Archives NT, shortlisted and winning entries may be withheld from publication. In this instance all publication rights revert to the author.
- 2.3 Authorship of shortlisted and winning works will be fully acknowledged in the Northern Territory Literary Awards 2026 print and online publications and in all related material.
- 2.4 A synopsis of scripts submitted in the Theatre category must be provided at time of entry and will be used in place of full length scripts in the publication.
- 2.5 Library & Archives NT reserves the right to standardise formatting except for the Poetry category but will not make any unreasonable changes to works without first seeking permission of the author.

3. Eligibility:

- 3.1 **Entrants must reside in Northern Territory, Australia at the time of submission.**
- 3.3 Works must not have been previously published in any other format with the exception of blogs entered in the Flash Fiction category. Publication of works scheduled after 30 June 2026 is permitted.
- 3.4 Scripts must not have been previously professionally produced.* Production of works scheduled after 30 June 2026 is permitted.

*A professional production is deemed to be any full-length presentation of the play by professional performers to a paying public, or for radio or television broadcast. An exception will be made where the submitted script has been substantially rewritten since its initial production (15% of written script or more).

- 3.5 Entrants in the Kath Manzie Youth Award must be aged 12 to 18 years as of 1 January 2026.
- 3.6 Parental or guardian permission is required for entrants to the Kath Manzie Youth Award. The consenting guardian will be bound by these Terms & Conditions.
- 3.7 Current Library & Archives NT staff, Northern Territory Writers' Centre and sponsors are prohibited from entering.

4. Authorship:

- 4.1 **NT Literary Awards expects works that engage with First Nations cultural heritage to comply with the Protocols for First Nations Cultural and Intellectual Property in the Arts:** <https://creative.gov.au/investment-and-development/protocols-and-resources/protocols-for-using-first-nations-cultural-and-intellectual-property-in-the-arts/#:~:text=First%20published%20in%202002%20and,and%20diverse%20Indigenous%20arts%20sector>

- 4.2 When writing about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander characters, attempts must be made to prevent stereotyping, perpetuating incorrect and negative discourses and contributing harm to a people or place.
- 4.3 If not writing from your lived experience, attempts must be made to create nuanced and authentic characters.
- 4.4 Entries must be the author's original work.
- 4.5 AI generated content is not permitted.
- 4.6 Works may be entered on behalf of an author but the author's permission must be obtained before entering.
- 4.7 Writers retain individual copyright over their entries.
- 4.8 Finalists and winners may be required to take part in events and media activities.

5. Privacy:

By submitting an entry you agree to our privacy policy: <https://lant.nt.gov.au/digital-services-privacy-policy>