

## FAQs

### Mid-Year Celebration of Journalism 2024

#### Important dates

- Entries open on March 4, 2024.
- Entries close at midnight on April 15, 2024.
- Entries must have been published or broadcast and available in Australia between April 27, 2023 and April 15, 2024.
- The Mid-Year Celebration of Journalism event will be held in Sydney on the evening of Thursday, June 20, 2024.

#### Who can enter?

- Unless specified in the category description, entrants must be either:
  - Living in Australia working for an Australian media outlet on an appropriate work visa, or as an Australian citizen or permanent resident; or
  - An Australian citizen working for international news outlet/s whose work is available to Australian audiences.
- Entrants of the John B. Fairfax Family Young Australian Journalist of the Year Awards, must have been 28 years of age or under at the time they produced the submitted work/s.
- Entrants of the Student Journalist of the Year award must be full-time students with the majority of their time dedicated to studying.
- Note: the Young Australian Journalist categories are **only open to individual entrants**.

#### How do I submit an entry?

To submit your entry, follow the prompts in the [online entry form](#).

#### How long does the online entry process take?

You should allow approximately 30-40 minutes to complete the online entry form. If you do not receive a confirmation email after pressing submit, your entry has not gone through. Do not leave it to the last day to make your entry because high demand on the website can lead to the process taking much longer.

#### How many times can I enter?

- Each entrant may only enter once in each category as an **individual**.
- An individual entrant can enter the same category a second time if they are part of a **joint/group** or **team** entry, provided the stories entered are different.

- Alternatively, an entrant may also enter a category twice if they are part of **two different** joint/group or team entries, and if the stories are different in each case.

**NOTE: Joint or group entries** may include up to four names. One person must be nominated as the primary contact.

**Team entries** can include any number of people but they must have a single team name clearly stated. Your bio must be written about the team (do not submit individual bios). One person must be the primary contact for this entry, but all names, positions and MEAA membership details if applicable must be submitted on a separate attached document when submitting your entry.

### **What do I need to get ready before submitting my entry?**

The online application platform will walk you through each requirement for entry. You can save your progress and return to edit your submission any time before the closing date. You will need to provide:

- Basic information such as your name, contact details and MEAA membership number if applicable
- The details of your entry, such as the name of the program, platform or publication it appeared in, and the date of broadcast or publication
- Access to your entry. You can upload a file or enter a URL. If the work is behind a paywall, you must provide a valid login and password that the judges can use to access the work throughout 2024.
- If the work you are entering is behind a paywall, it is strongly advised that you also upload a copy with your entry (e.g. a PDF or mp3 file).
- If you are submitting a joint or team entry, provide the names, positions, contact details, and MEAA membership numbers if applicable of everyone involved.
- If you are submitting a joint or team entry, provide one primary contact that can monitor communications from the Walkley Foundation and share them with other team members in a timely manner.
- If you are submitting a team entry, provide one chosen team name
- A high-resolution headshot (at least 1MB). Teams can submit a group photo, logo or image that best reflects them.
- A short bio (up to 50 words) of either the individual entrant, group or team.
- The contact name and email of the person who will verify your work – i.e. your employer or relevant course lecturer or head of school if you are entering the Student Journalist of the Year Award.

### **Do I have to include an Entry Statement?**

Yes. You must include a statement (up to 400 words) to accompany your entry. Your Entry Statement assists the judging process and should outline the case for consideration for the award. A strong Entry Statement will explicitly address how your entry excels in the category description and judging criteria. You may wish to explain the circumstances in which the entry was produced and why you have selected the piece/s for submission.

Please note, if you become a finalist, quotes from your Entry Statement could be published on the Walkley Foundation's digital channels or printed collateral, or at the Mid-Year Celebration of Journalism event.

### **How do I submit URL links to my work?**

To facilitate easy access for judging, entrants should place URLs outside paywalls. If the story is behind a paywall, the entrant must provide a username and password for judges that is clearly indicated in the Entry Statement. (It is the entrant's responsibility to ensure log-in details are correct and remain current for all of 2024.) If the work you are entering is behind a paywall, it is strongly advised that you also upload a copy with your entry (e.g. a PDF or mp3 file).

**Responsibility lies on entrants to ensure their work can be accessed throughout the tight judging schedule. Failure to make your work accessible to judges could result in disqualification.**

### **Do I need to have my entry verified?**

Yes. For copyright and authorisation reasons we require a declaration from your employer or commissioning organisation when you submit your work for the awards. Once your entry is submitted online, an automated email will be sent to your editor or employer to verify your entry. A verifier is an individual who has had direct oversight of the preparation of the work entered.

It is the **responsibility of entrants** to ensure that their verifier completes the verification process.

### **I'm self-published, how do I verify the work?**

Self-published entrants should provide relevant URL links and, where possible, verification of the work's authenticity. If you are verifying your own work you must make this clear to the judges in your Entry Statement.

### **What do I need to do if my work has been challenged?**

All entrants must declare any actual or threatened legal proceedings, complaints, and court orders in connection with or related to the work at the time of entry, including but not limited to defamation, contempt of court, breach of confidence, suppression and non-publication orders, and actions for preliminary discovery. All entrants must also declare any requests for corrections or challenges to the accuracy of an entry, any claims of plagiarism against the work, and any corrections or statements made concerning the work's accuracy or authorship. This does not necessarily disqualify an entry – transparency is important for the judging process.

### **What if there was a payment made to obtain part of the work?**

Entrants must disclose all payments and benefits provided to third parties in connection with the work entered, including financial contributions, payments in kind, and material gifts provided to interview subjects, their representatives or stakeholders in exchange for interviews, information or access. This will not necessarily disqualify an entry – transparency is important for the judging process.

### **How are the Mid-Year Celebration of Journalism awards judged?**

Each category for the Mid-Year Celebration of Journalism is judged by three journalists from different media organisations who volunteer their time. This panel assesses how well entries respond to:

- the category description; and
- judging criteria.

Each judging panel determines three finalists and, of these three finalists, one winner. (This judging system of the Mid-Year Celebration Journalism differs from the two-tiered judging system of the Walkley Awards.) The judging panels are built to reflect the award with a diversity of people and media organisations, and judges who have specialisation in the award category being reviewed.

The winner of the overall Young Australian Journalist of the Year Award is selected by representatives from the [Walkley Judging Board](#). The overall winner receives a

two-week trip to visit international newsrooms (flights included). All entrants across the six categories within the Young Australian Journalist of the Year Awards are contenders for this prize.

### **What are the judging criteria?**

The following judging criteria is applied to all awards administered by the Walkley Foundation unless explicitly stated otherwise in a category description. In addition to how well an entry responds to a category's requirements, judges will consider the below (noting some criteria may be more or less relevant across different categories):

- How the story was initiated and followed (with particular credit given for instigating or finding a story)
- Newsworthiness, including exclusivity
- Consideration of the resources available
- Creativity and innovation
- Research and investigation
- Balance, accuracy, and ethics
- Consideration of production pressures or deadlines and time constraints
- Demonstration of best use of the format/s in which the work was published or broadcast, including clever choices in storytelling through multimedia
- Excellence in written or verbal communication and/or technical and production skill
- Public impact or benefit, including audience engagement and serving specific communities

### **When are winners announced?**

Winners are announced at the Mid-Year Celebration of Journalism event in Sydney on Thursday, June 20, 2024.

Winners' work and photographs from the night will be available to the public at [www.walkleys.com](http://www.walkleys.com) after the event.

### **I have another question – who can I contact?**

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