



Terms & Conditions

Mid-Year Media Prizes 2025

N.B. Please note the Terms & Conditions for the Young Australian Journalist of the Year Awards are [here](#).

The below Terms & Conditions apply to the following prizes: Freelance Journalist of the Year, Arts Journalism & Cultural Criticism, Women's Leadership in Media, Media Diversity Australia, Our Watch, and Coverage of Science & the Environment.

- All entries must have been first published or broadcast and available in Australia between April 16, 2024 and April 14, 2025.
- Unless stated otherwise in the category description, all entrants must be either:
 - Australian citizens, permanent residents of Australia, or journalists residing in Australia working for an Australian media outlet on an appropriate visa; or
 - Australian citizens working for international news outlets whose work is available to an Australian audience.
- All entrants must certify that their entry adheres to the [MEAA Journalist Code of Ethics](#).
- All entrants must certify their entry is a work original to the entrant, and will not infringe the legal rights of any other party, including but not limited to intellectual property rights, privacy rights, and other rights of ownership and publicity.
- All entrants must 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 will not disqualify an entry – transparency is important for the judging process.
- All entries 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.



- This will not disqualify an entry – transparency is important for the judging process.
- Entrants must disclose all payments and benefits provided 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.
- Entrants must declare any and all use of artificial intelligence (AI) used in producing the works entered and preparing their submission. This includes but is not limited to the use of generative AI technology tools for data scraping; writing and scripting; transcription services; and AI image tools to create artwork, photography, data visualisation, and other graphics.
 - This will not necessarily disqualify an entry – transparency is important for the judging process.
- Entry is open to Australian journalists who have self-published, including on digital platforms.
- Self-published entrants should provide relevant URL links and, where possible, verification of the work's authenticity. If the entrant is verifying their own work, they must make this clear in their supporting statement.
- If entrants are submitting a podcast series, they may enter a maximum of three episodes. Entrants must not submit more than a total of 90 minutes of audio content. *If more than 90 minutes of content is submitted, judges will assess the first 90 minutes only.*
- Books are not eligible to be entered into the Arts Journalism & Arts Criticism Prize. These should be entered into the [Walkley Book Award](#) (which are part of the Walkley Awards).
- The same entry can be submitted into a maximum of two categories.



- 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.

- Entry into the Mid-Year Media Prizes is free for members of MEAA. All members of a group or team must be MEAA members to claim free entry.
- The cost of entering the Mid-Year Media Prizes *other than the Young Journalist Awards* is \$100 for non-MEAA members including GST. To enquire about MEAA membership, contact members@meaa.org
 - The exception is the Freelance Journalist of the Year Prize, which is free for MEAA members and \$50 for non-members.
- Entry into the Young Journalist Awards is free for MEAA members and \$50 for non-MEAA members
- Entry into the John B. Fairfax Family Student Journalist of the Year Award is free.
- Entry into the following **scholarships, fellowships and grants** is free:
 - Jacoby-Walkley Scholarship
 - ARN Audio Scholarship
 - Sean Dorney Grant for Pacific Journalism
- The Walkley Foundation and the Judges have the right to reject an entry that in their opinion does not comply with the category description, judging criteria, terms and conditions or other requirements of the competition. The judges' decision will be final. The Walkley Foundation and the Walkley Judging Board reserve the right to withdraw an Award if it later finds the entrant did not comply with the entry conditions.

- **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.**
 - To facilitate easy access for judging, entrants supplying URLs must ensure their stories can be read 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 2025.)
 - 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).
- When entries are submitted, the entrant's verifier will receive an automated verification email. It is the **responsibility of entrants** to ensure that their verifier completes the verification process.
- The Walkley Foundation reserves the right to use all material submitted for non-commercial presentation and media use and to reproduce it for the purposes of promoting the awards and for allowing a telecast of the presentation ceremony.