

Entrants must submit their work in accordance with the full Terms and Conditions set forth in this document. Any failure to comply with any of these Terms and Conditions may result in disqualification, at the sole discretion of the City of Rockingham.

Eligibility

1. The Stories for the Ages Contest and Showcase is free to enter and is for any written creative expression that reflects a positive experience of ageing or older age.
2. Authors must be 14 years or older at the time of entry. Parent or guardian consent is required for people under 18.
3. Authors must be Western Australian residents since 1 January 2025.
4. All work must be less than 2,000 words (there is no minimum).
5. All work must be received by the City of Rockingham, along with a completed entry form, by no later than 4pm on Friday 17 October 2025. Late entries will not be accepted.
6. All entries, whether digital or in hard copy, must be made through the channels identified on the entry form. Only typed work will be accepted, hand written work will not be considered.
7. Changes to your entry will not be accepted after the contest closing date.
8. Authors may submit up to three entries, each as a standalone work. Each entry will be judged independently, without consideration of other submissions.
9. City of Rockingham employees are eligible to enter the contest, with the exception of staff employed within the Community Capacity Building Department. All Terms and Conditions apply. Discussing your entry with staff in the Community Capacity Building team will result in immediate disqualification.
10. Rockingham Writers Centre members are eligible to enter the contest, with the exception of committee members. All Terms and Conditions apply. Discussing your entry with committee members (outside of writing workshops and events) will result in immediate disqualification.
11. All communications from the City of Rockingham will be via the address nominated in your entry form. Receipt of entries will be sent within five business

days. Please note: You will not receive an automatic confirmation upon submission of entry form.

Story Requirements

12. Works should reflect the themes of the contest as described below:
 - The value and impact on communities, lives, family and knowledge.
 - The benefits and positive aspects of older age.
13. Stories and other written works must not have been previously published or broadcast, or won a major prize.
14. Must be original works by the author.
15. Avoid profanities and offensive language whenever possible. The City reserves the right to remove profanities before publishing and may reject entries at its discretion if they are identified as containing offensive content.
16. All stories must be complete at the time of entry. Incomplete stories, stories longer than the maximum 2,000 word count (no minimum), drafts or concepts will not be accepted.
17. Works can be in the format of short stories (autobiographical or non-fiction), essays, or poems.
18. The writing prompts and suggestions available in the 'Story for the Ages Writing Prompts' document are not an exhaustive list of topics and do not reflect a requirement.

Award Categories

All awards will be at the judges' discretion. There is a prize pool of \$1,000. All awards are non-acquisitive. All works entered are eligible for the First Prize Award.

First Prize (Open Category)

\$500 + one year membership to the Rockingham Writers Centre.

All stories selected for the exhibition will be considered for this prize, which will be presented to the most outstanding work.

Emerging Writer Award

\$200 + one year membership to the Rockingham Writers Centre + \$50 book store voucher.

An Emerging Writer, for the purpose of this award, is defined as an unpublished writer, who has not won a writing competition major prize, or had works published in a major publication.

Local Resident Award

\$100 Bunnings voucher + one year membership to the Rockingham Writers Centre.

Most outstanding work by an author residing within the City of Rockingham.

First Nations Writer Award

\$200 + one year membership to the Rockingham Writers Centre.

Most outstanding work by a writer identifying as First Nations people.

Representation and Ethics

19. Works must be respectful and free from harmful representations, including but not limited to cultural appropriation, racial insensitivity, and stereotypes related to gender, sexuality, disability, or other marginalised groups. Any works deemed inappropriate, insensitive, or exploitative towards any community will not be accepted. It is the responsibility of the author to ensure their work upholds principles of inclusion, respect, and cultural safety for all. For further guidance, please refer to Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies ["Guidelines for the ethical publishing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander authors and research from those communities."](#)
20. Works incorporating First Nations Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP), such as cultural references or techniques, must be created by an author with the appropriate authority or connection to that culture. These works must uphold cultural integrity and respect for the community from which they draw. Works deemed culturally inappropriate or disrespectful, as determined by the Curator, the City, or other appointed representatives, will not be considered. For further guidance, please refer to Creative Australia's ["Protocols for using First Nations Cultural and Intellectual Property in the Arts."](#)
21. If a story incorporates cultural references including First Nations languages (such as Nyoongar, Bunuru or Boodja) the author's statement must clearly indicate whether the author is First Nations or from the culture described. If the author is not First Nations or from the culture described, the statement must explicitly note this.

Showcase Selection

22. Stories must meet the theme requirements (identified in Point 12) to be selected.
23. The selection process is completed by an independent panel of writing creatives with professional experience.
24. The Selection Panel's decision is final and no correspondence or discussion will be entered into. Lobbying the Curators, Selection Panel, or City of Rockingham staff will result in instant disqualification.
25. Since the showcase is in a public space and the collection of stories will be publicly available, all works must be suitable for readers of all ages. The City of Rockingham reserves the right to reject entries deemed inappropriate.
26. Only works selected for the showcase are eligible for awards, except when the entrant is ineligible (e.g. staff or committee members, as outlined in points 9 and 10).
27. Authors will be notified of the outcome of their entry by no later than 1 November 2025 via email.

Copyright and Promotion

28. The City of Rockingham reserves the right to reproduce all work for promotional, marketing or educational purposes at no cost to the City.
29. By entering a story into the Contest, the author agrees to allow the City to publish the author's name, author's photo, story title and author's statement in connection to their entry.
30. All works submitted must be the original work of the author. Works cannot be copied or referenced either wholly or in part from any extant article. Works cannot infringe the copyright, moral rights or other rights of any third party.

Awards

31. Should there be unsuitable/insufficient total entries, or within any category, a prize may not be awarded.
32. Winners will be announced at the Stories for the Ages Showcase and then published on the City of Rockingham website.

33. Entrants who receive an award will need to complete and sign documents provided by the City to proceed with payment. Incomplete information or delays in returning these documents will result in delays in payment.
34. The 2025 Stories for the Ages Contest and Showcase is non-acquisitive. The City will not make any works available for sale.
35. The City will, at its discretion, reproduce the works in electronic or physical formats. Copies or any reproductions will be shared with the authors.

Please direct all enquiries to:
Community Development Officer (Seniors)
9528 0333 or email customer@rockingham.wa.gov.au

Stories for the Ages Showcase and Contest is curated by the Rockingham Writers Centre.

