

Neilma Sidney Literary Travel Fund

Open 1 Mar — 29 Mar writersvictoria.org.au



Application Kit

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About the Fund

Named in honour of poet, novelist and short story writer Neilma Gantner (1922-2015), the travel fund recognises the unique value of travel in the development of new writing and literary careers.

The travel fund is open to emerging, midcareer and established Australian writers and literary sector workers. This includes writers, editors, agents, publishers, librarians, booksellers, employees and associates of literary organisations and journals, and other literary professionals currently living in Australia. Applicants can apply for grants between \$2000 to \$10,000.

Judges will be looking for applications that demonstrate how strategic travel opportunities will benefit applicants' own writing practice, career development and/or the broader Australian literary sector.

Previous recipients

Round 1

Alexandra Collier, Andrew Bovell, Arwen Summers, Bren MacDibble, Eda Gunaydin, Mark O'Flynn, Michael Earp, Michael Green, Robert Dessaix and Vanessa Russell.

Round 2

Bruce Pascoe, Chris Andrews, Damon Young, Ellen van Neerven, Emma Viskic, Janine Mikosza, Jennifer Porter, Jessica Friedmann, Laura Woollett, Louis Klee, Melinda Smith, Rebecca Giggs and Sam Cooney

Round 3

Allison Colpoys, Cassandra Pybus, Christine Sun, Eleanor Limprecht, Josephine Wilson, Katherine Collette, Lauren Chater, Sam Twyford-Moore and Tom Holloway

For more information:

Visit writersvictoria.org.au/the-neilma-sidney-literary-travel-fund

Preparing your application

The application form is hosted on Submittable and you will need to provide the following information and supporting material:

Grant request

Nominate an amount between \$2,000–\$10,000. Please round to the nearest dollar.

About you

Provide a 1 x A4 page summary of:

- Biography (including your connection to the literary sector)
- Publication and/or career history

About the opportunity – overview and impact

Details of the travel opportunity you would like to undertake (dates, duration, activities, etc).

- Why you are best placed to undertake the opportunity.
- What you hope to achieve.
- How the opportunity will benefit your own writing practice, career development and/or the broader Australian literary sector.

Support material

Provide a 1 x A4 page summary of either:

- A letter of support
- A letter of acceptance
- A writing example

Budget summary - Provide a 1 x A4 page summary of:

- How the grant will be spent

See a sample budget here:

https://writersvictoria.org.au/sites/default/files/public/budget_example.pdf

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I have to be based in Australia to apply?

Yes, this opportunity is open to Australian citizens and permanent residents currently living in Australia.

Do I have to be based in Victoria?

No, this is a national opportunity.

What do you mean by 'literary professionals'?

Anyone with a direct connection to Australia's literary sector is able to apply. This includes writers working in any style or genre, including (but not limited to) fiction or non-fiction writers, journalists, script writers, poets, memoirists, short story writers, aural storytellers or people who write for performance. It also includes editors, agents, publishers, librarians, booksellers and staff members of literary organisations.

What do you mean by 'emerging or established'?

This opportunity is not for beginners or those at the very start of their literary careers. You should be able to demonstrate a publication history and/or several years' employment or professional engagement within the literary sector. **Am I emerging?**

Can I apply for national or international travel?

You can apply for either (or both).

Can I apply to do research for my book?

Yes. You will need to demonstrate why the research requires travel and how you will use the time.

Can I apply to attend a writers' festival / book fair / book launch / publisher meetings?

Yes, travel activities can include attendance at these sorts of activities. However, the focus of the travel should be on professional/creative development rather than marketing or the replacement of usual business costs. For example, if a publisher always sends someone to a certain international book fair, then that would be seen as part of their usual business.

Can I apply to attend the Bite the Big Apple Tour (or similar)?

Yes, you can apply for international professional development tours. However, as we are likely to receive many applications for exactly the same opportunity, you will need to demonstrate how your application will differ from the others, and how it will specifically benefit your writing, career and/or the broader literary sector.

Can more than one person apply?

Yes, you can apply for more than one person to travel if you're working on a collaborative project. However, you can't apply for the costs of friends or family members travelling with you.

When can the travel activity take place?

Activities must to be undertaken within a year of confirmation. You can't apply for activities that have already taken place.

Can I apply for access / interpreter / support worker costs?

Yes, if you identify as a person with disability, you can include access costs in your budget.

Can I apply to work with an Aboriginal writer or community / tell an Aboriginal story?

Applications from First Nations writers or literary sector professionals are strongly encouraged. Applications from non-First Nations writers or literary sector professionals should follow the Australia Council's Protocols for producing Indigenous Australian Writing:

http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/symphony/extension/richtext_redactor/getfile/?name=fc8a5cc73467cb405e8943ae14975da7.pdf

What are my chances?

We have up to \$50,000 to grant per Round. This means we will probably be able to make between 5 and 20 grants (depending on the size of the grant requests). In Round 1, we received over 200 applications, 10 of which were successful. In Round 2, we received over 120 applications, 13 of which were successful. In Round 3, we received over 110 applications, 9 of which were successful.

What We Learned from Previous Rounds

- Be careful your application doesn't read like a holiday itinerary. Focus on the literary merit. Why is travel imperative to your project?
- If you're writing a family history, what is it about the history that Australia needs to know? What is the bigger picture? Make the personal, universal.
- Understand the difference between 'vanity publishing', 'self-publishing' and 'traditional publishing'. Writers who are applying for the Fund must have been published by a traditional publisher, literary journal, newspaper or magazine. You can find more information about vanity publishing here: <https://writersvictoria.org.au/what-vanity-publishing>

Terms & Conditions

1. Applications must be made online. If the online application form isn't accessible to you, let us know.
2. Applicants must be Australian citizens or permanent residents (currently living in Australia).
3. Applicants must be aged 18 or over.
4. Applicants must be emerging, midcareer and established Australian writers and literary sector workers (not beginners) with a demonstrated publication and/or career history.
5. Applicants can only make one submission per round.
6. Where relevant, activities must comply with the Australia Council Protocols for Producing Indigenous Australian Writing.
7. Joint applications for collaborative travel projects will be accepted. However, the maximum grant request of \$10,000 still applies to collaborative projects.
8. Late applications will not be accepted.
9. The judges' decision will be final. No correspondence will be entered into.
10. Preference will be given to writers who haven't previously received a Neilma Sidney Literary Travel Fund grant.
11. Recipients agree to abide by the terms of the Neilma Sidney Literary Travel Fund agreement.
12. Travel activity must be undertaken within one year following the date of the agreement.
13. Recipients will be fully responsible for coordination and delivery of travel activity (including appropriate insurances, etc).
14. Recipients will be required to complete an acquittal within two months of the end of the travel activity.
15. Recipients will be required to write a 500-word article about the travel activity for publication by Writers Victoria and/or The Myer Foundation.
16. Recipients will be required to acknowledge the Neilma Sidney Literary Travel Fund, The Myer Foundation and Writers Victoria in any promotion or publication resulting from the work supported during the activity.
17. Recipients will be required to reimburse the Neilma Sidney Literary Fund should any conditions be breached, or the project not undertaken as outlined (without prior written agreement)
18. Writers Victoria staff or Committee of Management members are not eligible to apply.
19. Uploaded documents must be in either PDF or Word Doc formats.