

Neilma Sidney Literary Travel Fund

Open 11 March–15 April

writersvictoria.org.au



Application Kit

- **About the Fund**
- **Preparing your application**
- **FAQs**
- **What we learned from previous rounds**
- **Terms and conditions**

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 \$2,000 and \$10,000.

Judges will look 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, 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, Sam Cooney.

Round 3

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

Round 4

Annabel Brady-Brown, Cher Tan, Ellen O'Brien, Fiona Murphy, Heather Dyer, Melanie Joosten, Oliver Reeson, Sara Mansour, Sista Zai Zanda, Susie Anderson, Yvette Holt.

Round 5

Cate Kennedy, Evelyn Araluen and Jonathan Dunk, Fiona Hardy, Madelaine Dickie, Maria Takolander, Mirandi Riwoe, Robert Lukins, Ruhi Lee, Sara Saleh, Tamara Lazaroff.

For more information:

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

Key dates for Round 6

- Applications open Wednesday 11 March 2020, 9am (AEDT).
- Applications close Wednesday 15 April, midday (AEDT).
- Travel activity for Round 6 must take place between 1 June 2020 and 31 May 2021.

Preparing Your Application

The application form is hosted on Submittable. A link will become available on the Writers Victoria website when applications open on 11 March.

You will need to provide the following information and supporting material:

Topic sentence

A one-sentence description of your project.

When your travel will take place

The start and end dates of your proposed travel activity. This does not have to be a detailed itinerary – just the basic dates. However, please ensure that the travel you are applying for will take place between 1 June 2020 and 31 May 2021.

The town, state, or country in which you will be spending most of your travel time

If you are proposing to visit multiple places, please list the one or two where you will spend the most time. You can provide more detail about your itinerary under ‘About the Opportunity’ and in your budget.

Grant request

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

Budget summary

Provide a 1 x A4 page summary of:

- How the grant will be spent.

About you

Provide a 1 x A4 page summary of your:

- 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 of **either**:

- A letter of support, or
- A letter of acceptance, or
- A writing example.

(Please note that you can only submit ONE of the above options.)

Alternatively, provide an audio or video file no more than 3 minutes long. This must be in either .mp3, .mp4, or .avi format.

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. We encourage applications from all around Australia.

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, podcasters, 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. If you want to check whether you’re emerging, this link can help: <https://writersvictoria.org.au/writing-life/on-writing/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, your 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. Collaborative projects are also subject to the same \$10,000 maximum grant request as individual projects.

When can the travel activity take place?

Activities must be undertaken within a year of confirmation. (For Round 6, this means your travel must take place between 1 June 2020 and 31 May 2021 – dates inclusive.) 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).

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>
- Make sure the travel you propose will take place during the period specified for that round. If your travel itinerary/budget dates are even one day out, your application won't be eligible for consideration.
- Pay close attention to the submission guidelines for your project overview, bio, budget, and support material: each of these should be no more than one A4 page. If a document exceeds one page, it won't be considered.
- We ask for a limited amount of support material, so make what you submit count: choose the document (such as a writing sample or a letter of support) that best reflects the project for which you're applying.

Terms and 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:
<https://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/workspace/uploads/files/writing-protocols-for-indigeno-5b4bfc67dd037.pdf>
7. Joint applications for collaborative travel projects will be accepted. Collaborative projects are subject to the same \$10,000 maximum grant request as individual projects.
8. Late applications will **not** be accepted. Please note the deadline time of **12pm AEDT (i.e. midday)** on Wednesday 15 April – you will not be able to submit an application after this time. Due to high internet traffic, the online form might be slow to load around the cutoff time; Writers Victoria is not responsible for connection issues, and we recommend submitting your application well in advance of the 12pm cutoff to avoid potential delays.
9. The judges' decision will be final. No correspondence will be entered into.
10. Applicants from former rounds (both successful and unsuccessful) may reapply in this round. However, preference will be given to those 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. For Round 6, this means travel must take place between **1 June 2020 and 31 May 2021**. Applications for projects outside this timeframe will be deemed ineligible and not considered.
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 potential 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. If providing audio support material, you must upload it in .mp3 format. If providing video support material, you must upload it in .mp4 or .avi format.
20. Supporting documentation must be meet the size limits: a maximum of **one** A4 page for each uploaded file, or a maximum of three minutes for an audio or video file.