

2025 National Young Writers' Festival (NYWF)

3 – 6 October 2025, Newcastle NSW

Artist Call Out Information Pack

Deadline: 11:58pm AEST, Monday 28 April 2025

The National Young Writers' Festival (NYWF) is a free and accessible four-day festival held annually in Newcastle, NSW on the land of the Awabakal and Worimi peoples. NYWF is an annual gathering of young writers, and a place to show work, share ideas, and learn. The programs are free, and made by and for young storytellers who create across stage, page, web, and beyond.

Following a hiatus in 2024, NYWF is back for 2025! We're looking for young and emerging artists to join our festival to celebrate the power of words.

This year's theme is '**Share Space: The Art of Storytelling.**'

Whether personal or collective, timeless or fleeting (or just plain silly), the stories we tell are central to the way we connect within our shared spaces. The written word is a tool for connection—the same way dance, theatre, podcasting, textiles, and comedy are. *Share Space: The Art of Storytelling* centres the festival as a creative community. We're inviting contributing artists, festival-goers, and organisations alike to explore the dynamic relationship between storytellers of all forms and the art of telling stories.

What creative pathways are today's emerging creatives taking to build upon, experiment with, dismantle, or create generative and impactful ways of sharing their stories? What have they learnt, and what can they tell us? Held on the land of some of the oldest storytellers in the world, NYWF 2025 will explore how stories connect us all.

We'd love to hear from young and emerging writers and artists. Tell us what makes you excited and why you do what you do. This is a safe space for you to explore your creativity, so don't be afraid to send us your bold, daring and even a little awkward ideas.

Can I apply?

If you're between 18 and 35 (inclusive) and you're passionate about storytelling, then congratulations! You've met all the selection criteria. If you're under 18, stay tuned for more information on our Younger Young Writers' Program later in the year.

The purpose of this call out is to discover new and exciting voices.

As well as storytellers, poets, journalists, editors and comedians, we're also looking for songwriters, comic artists, screenwriters, activists and people who create online videos.

NYWF is an organisation that values diversity and strongly encourages Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people from the LBQTI community, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and people with a disability to apply.

I have some access support needs.

The following options are available for applicants with access support needs:

Submitting your form:

1. Download and fill out the form with a Word Document version available [here](#).
2. Send your completed form to info@youngwritersfestival.org with the subject heading 'ARTIST CALL-OUT NYWF 2025'
3. We will send you a confirmation email once the form has been received.

Within the form, you will be asked to provide information about your access support should you be selected as an artist for the 2025 festival. If you are successful, we will be in contact to ensure your needs are accommodated.

Further information

If you want help filling out or are unable to access the form, please email info@youngwritersfestival.org and someone will contact you to arrange a phone or video call. We can help you by:

- Filling out the form for you
- Troubleshooting any digital accessibility issues

I'm from a regional or remote area.

We understand getting to Newcastle for the festival isn't always the easiest task, especially if you're coming a long way cross country.

NYWF will be able to cover the cost of travel and accommodation to appear at the 2025 festival.

What do I need to include in my application?

The whole application is submitted via a simple online form (or in a word document if you prefer). It's easy, quick and there'll be a chance to edit your responses at the end. We recommend drafting the wordier parts of your application before filling out the form.

Here's what you can expect from the application:

General Information (Who are you?)

- Personal and contact details
- Social media details (if applicable)
- If you're applying as an individual or as a group.
- Have you participated in NYWF in previous years (as an artist, volunteer, attendant etc.)?
- What's your availability over the weekend of NYWF? This isn't locked in stone and you can let us know if anything comes up between now and the festival, but be honest. It helps us when programming events.

General information

This section contains questions about basic statistical information for our records. Your answers won't be used to assess your application. The reason we've included this section is that it's very helpful for us to know who the callout is reaching and who's interested in being part of the festival this year. The NYWF may use this information for future grant applications, but all information will be depersonalised and made anonymous. If you have any concerns or questions, please get in touch via the contact information below.

Festival Information (What do you do?)

- Short bio: this will be used in our program if you're successful. It also gives us a quick snapshot of who you are.
- Upload a headshot if you can. If you're successful, it will be used in our program and for promotional purposes.
- What would you like to do? What events would you like to be in at NYWF?
- What would you like to see? As an audience member or participant, what conversations would you like to see the festival having? Which writers would you recruit? Would it be a panel, a reading, a workshop, something totally different? This is your chance to help us shape the festival. We really encourage you to fill in this section.
- Tell us what you write: don't worry about being verbose or impressive, we just want to get an idea of your writing practice. Try to highlight the things you're most passionate about or anything you write (Do you keep a diary? Do you work in copywriting or magazine publishing during your day-job?).
- What would you like to be programmed on: what sort of events are you keen to be part of at our festival? If you're not comfortable running workshops, for example, maybe leave that one out.
- Sample of your work: is there something (a blog post, an article, a video of you reading) that exemplifies you and what you do? We'd love to have a look. You'll be able to add a link or upload a document.
- Anything else: something you'd like to say that didn't fit in another question? Don't be shy.

What happens if I'm successful?

Hooray, you'll be an artist at NYWF 2025! We'll be in touch to confirm your application has been successful by the beginning of June.

After that, the team will put our heads together, create the program and be in touch about what events we're keen to have you involved in.

What we can provide to successful applicants:

- Payment in line with Australian Society of Authors (ASA) rates dependant on the type of event

- Flight costs and accommodation for the duration of the festival
- Advice and support in the leap-up to the festival
- An amazing time

What we can't provide:

- Guaranteed festival timeslots
- Guaranteed festival event types

What happens if I'm not successful?

We'll be in touch to let you know. Please don't be discouraged if your application is not successful. Remember that we receive hundreds (literally hundreds) more applications than we have spots in the program. Also, an unsuccessful application *does not* mean you can't come to our festival. In fact, we'd love to have you. There will be heaps of other ways you can be involved on the ground at NYWF (as a volunteer, trivia contestant, or at one of our readings, just to name a few examples).

If you have any questions, please get in contact with us via email:

info@youngwritersfestival.org

Submit your application via our Artist Call Out Form or by completing a Word document form and attaching it to an email by **11:59pm AEST Monday 28 April 2025**.

Please circulate this call out to your networks! Share it on Instagram! Make a TikTok about it! Email it to your creative writing teacher! Tell all your friends at the next party you go to!

We can't wait to hear from you!

Thirangie, Lay, Helen & Monique

2025 NYWF Team