

Entries open July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022.

All entries must have been published, broadcast, or televised in Australia in the 12 months from **July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022**. Eligibility for the Clarion Awards is based on independent acts of journalism, free from any commercial or corporate interests.

All entrants must certify that their entry, apart from normal sub editorial/production treatment, is their original work and that they have adhered to the MEAA [Journalist Code of Ethics](#) in the work preparation, and undertake to continue to abide by the Code of Ethics, and have complied with all copyright requirements. All entries must be factually based.

An entry fee of \$230 applies for non-MEAA members and is waived for MEAA members ([join MEAA here](#)).

Eligibility

- Entries must be primarily the work of an entrant or entrants whose principal and permanent residence is in Queensland. The work may be supported by colleagues interstate. Entry into the awards is based on residency in Queensland, not the content relating to Queensland. Queensland-based journalists who undertake short-term assignments overseas (6 months or less) can enter the awards.
- Entry is open to journalists who have self-published, including blogs and social media.
- 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.**
- All entries must declare any legal complaints, defamation actions, contempt of court actions, suppression orders, challenges to the accuracy, corrections or claims of plagiarism relevant to the work at the time of entry.
- Entrants must declare if the creation of the work involved payment for information or an interview and the nature of that payment.
- Each entry must include a 200-word supporting statement. See the Clarions for tips on what to include in your statement.
- Journalists entering more than one category must complete a separate entry form for each category.
- Entering into a category multiple times is permitted. Entrants must complete a new and separate submission for each award category.

- In all cases, 'report' refers to a single report or a series of up to THREE reports of an event, subject or Issue, or a collection of up to SIX photographs of an event, subject or issue – all content must be published.
- **Team entries** may include up to five people with the name of the team clearly stated. Entries must be primarily the work of an entrant or entrants whose principal and permanent residence is in Queensland. Entry must include substantial collaboration before publication on the same piece of work. This should be clearly outlined in the supporting statement.
- Each entry must be verified by a representative of the employer/commissioning media organisation.
- The winner in each category, except the recipient of the 'Most Outstanding Contribution to Journalism' award, will be a contender for the 'Journalist of the Year'.
- Only journalists employed by community and regional media, or based in regional bureaus of organisations are eligible to enter the 'Coverage of Regional and Community' category.
- The entrant acknowledges that the Walkley Foundation may reproduce, broadcast, and communicate materials submitted for the purpose of promoting the Clarion Awards, conducting the presentation ceremony, and making the finalist and winners' entries available to the public.

Cost of entry

- The cost of entering the awards, including GST, is \$230 per entry for journalists and photographers. MEAA waives the entry costs for its financial members as [a benefit of MEAA membership](#). Financial members are not required to pay the entry fee except where a non-member is part of a group entry, in which case the normal entry fee (\$230 per entry) is required.
- To qualify for the fee waiver, MEAA members must retain financial MEAA membership for a minimum period of 6 months after joining i.e., if you join so you can enter the awards you must remain a member until at least February 2023.
- If you have lost your MEAA membership number or would like to speak to someone about joining, please phone 1300 65 65 13.

Other conditions

- Judges have the right to reject an entry that, in their opinion, does not comply with the terms and conditions of the awards. The judges' decision will be final. The MEAA Queensland Media Section reserves the

right to withdraw a Clarion Award if it later finds the entrant did not comply with the entry conditions.

- **To facilitate easy access for judging, entrants should place URLs outside any paywall. If that proves infeasible, the entry should provide a username and password for judges, plainly indicated in the supporting statement.**

Outstanding Contribution to Journalism

- Each year, the Clarion Awards recognise the achievements of a person who has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to the highest standards of journalism – truth, rigour, integrity, fairness – throughout their career. Nominations are accepted via the MEAA Queensland Branch. Please email michelle.rae@meaa.org with relevant supporting material, including letters of nomination from peers, community, and employers.

Judging criteria

The purpose of the Clarion Awards is to recognise creative and courageous acts of journalism that seek out the truth and give new insight to an issue.

The judges will consider the following criteria as well as those in the description for the category they are judging:

- How the story was initiated and followed (with particular credit given for instigating, breaking or finding a story)
- Newsworthiness, including exclusivity
- Consideration of the resources available
- Creativity and innovation
- Research and investigation
- Balance, accuracy, and ethics
- Consideration of production pressures or deadlines and time constraints
- Demonstration of best use of the format/s in which the work was published or broadcast, including clever choices in storytelling through multimedia
- Excellence in written or verbal communication and/or technical and production skills
- Public impact or benefit, including audience engagement and serving specific communities

The awards seek to recognise excellence, independence, innovation, and originality in storytelling and distinctive reporting. This can be through research and investigations, well-crafted and innovative presentations, news breaking single stories, or engaging, entertaining and/or informative reporting.

Judges will consider the resources and time available in creating the work, the pressure and demand of reporting deadlines, and the location of the journalist, taking into consideration potential isolation or exposure to outside forces, danger, or pressure in presenting a story.

Photography Awards

The Clarion photographic awards recognise visual journalists producing still photography for any platform. Criteria include storytelling, courage, public impact, creativity, innovative use of technology, technical ability and resourcefulness and can include sound slides and photo film. Photographers should reference the category descriptions for each category when preparing their entries.

Photographers are also invited to enter their work in relevant All Media categories in the Clarion Awards. Photographers are eligible to enter photographic work in All Media categories such as Camerawork as an individual entrant or as part of a group or team entry.

A photographer may only enter once in each photography category.

Only photos published between July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022, are eligible for entry.

Please see the category descriptions for further information. Below are the number of images you can submit per category:

- **News Photography** up to 6 related images
- **Feature/Photographic Essay** can comprise 5 to 12 images in a series with at least one published Image.

Entry process and requirements for photographers:

- Photographers must submit an entry statement with each category entered.

Material specifications for photographers

- Images must meet the following specifications: • Images must be uploaded in .jpg/.jpeg format
- Images should be at least 3,000 pixels in size. • Each image should be saved in the .jpg/.jpeg format with a medium to high quality.
- All required image information, such as the creation date, place, and country, as well as the caption/description must be provided. It can be included in the metadata of the image files or entered on the entry website after uploading the images.
- The content of an image **MUST NOT be altered**. Only retouching that conforms to currently accepted standards in the industry is allowed. No cloning, montaging or digital manipulation other than cropping, 'digital spotting,' burning and dodging is permitted. The jury is the ultimate arbiter of these standards
- Entrants must not intentionally contribute to, or alter, the scene they picture by re-enacting or staging events.
- Entrants must ensure captions are accurate and provide a supporting statement that is open and transparent about the entire process through which their pictures were taken and published.
- Participants who are longlisted by the first-round judges may be contacted and required to provide file/s as recorded by the camera for all images in order to proceed to the final stages of the contest. These file/s will be requested and examined confidentially during the judging period. A failure to provide these files if requested will lead to the elimination of the entry that will not proceed into the final rounds and will not become eligible for a Clarion Award.