



2023 STATE & TERRITORY MEDIA AWARDS REVIEW

DRAFT DOCUMENTS FOR MEMBER FEEDBACK

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MODEL MEDIA AWARDS TERMS & CONDITIONS

Entries open [XXXX] and close on [XXXX]

All entries must have been published, broadcast, or televised in Australia in the 12 months from **[relevant dates]**. Eligibility for these 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 any relevant copyright requirements.

Judges will also be required to certify that they have read and understood the Code of Ethics and will apply it in judging entries.

All entrants (or lead entrant) must complete the Entry Questionnaire. [\[link here\]](#)

Eligibility

- Entries must be factually based and must be primarily the work of an entrant or entrants whose principal and permanent residence is in XXXX. The work may be supported by colleagues interstate. Entry into the awards is based on residency in XXXX, not the content relating to XXXX. XXXX-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 response to the entry questionnaire.
- All entries must declare any legal and other formal complaints and/or proceedings concerning the subject work. This includes, but is not limited to: defamation actions, contempt of court actions, suppression orders, complaints lodged with the publisher or author concerning 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.
- Entering into a category multiple times is permitted. Journalists entering more than one category must complete a separate entry form for each entry in 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 [XXXX]. Entry must include substantial collaboration before publication on the same piece of work. This should be clearly outlined in the entry questionnaire.
- 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'. [THIS DIFFERS FROM STATE TO STATE]
- The entrant acknowledges that the [EVENT ORGANISERS] may reproduce, broadcast, and communicate materials submitted for the purpose of promoting the Awards, conducting the presentation ceremony, and making the finalist and winners' entries available to the public.

To facilitate access for judging, entrants should place URLs outside any paywall. If that proves infeasible, the entry should provide a username and password for judges.

Cost of entry

- The cost of entering the awards, including GST, is [\$XXXX] 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 (\$XXXX 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.

Judging criteria and considerations

The purpose of the [XXXX] Awards is to recognise creative and courageous acts of factually based journalism that seek out the truth and give new insight to an issue.

Entries should honestly reflect the available facts.

Entries should not portray negative stereotypes and 'differences' in a way that conveys that all members of a particular community share a negative characteristic.

Entries shall display an appreciation and observance of relevant cultural protocols and use acceptable descriptors of communities and individuals canvassed in the subject matter.

Entries shall display an appreciation of diversity and an awareness that communities, especially marginalised communities, are not homogenous and that disparate views and beliefs are held across the subject-matter's spectrum.

In assessing entries, judges will have regard to:

- How the story was initiated and followed (with particular credit given for instigating or finding a story)
- Compliance with the MEAA Journalists Code of Ethics - per the entry questionnaire
- Newsworthiness, including exclusivity
- Excellence in written or verbal communication and/or technical and production skill
- Public impact or benefit, including audience engagement
- Available resources
- Creativity
- Research and investigation
- Whether artificial intelligence (AI) was used and the degree of AI use
- Balance and accuracy
- production pressures, deadlines and time constraints
- the use of the format/s in which the work was published or broadcast

Please note:

- Judges have the right to reject an entry that, in their opinion, does not comply with the terms and conditions of the awards and/or in their reasonable opinion misrepresents an essential element of the story's subject matter. The judges' decision will be final.
- The MEAA Board reserves the right to withdraw award(s) if it later finds the entrant did not comply with the entry/eligibility criteria. This includes where the content has demonstrably been established to be misleading or false.
- Where a runner-up can be determined for an award that has been withdrawn, the award will be awarded to that entry.

You can find more information about the judging process and criteria here [\[Insert Link\]](#)

Photography Awards

The XXXX 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 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 [insert dates] 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 requirements for photographers:

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 information in the entry questionnaire 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 an Award.

State Media Awards - Entry Questionnaire

[TO BE COMPLETED BY ENTRANT OR LEAD ENTRANT]

(Please provide brief responses. Your responses will assist judges identify the merits of your work and the steps taken in publishing the story.)

1. What is the key reason this entry should win?
2. Where applicable, briefly state how you adhered to the MEAA Journalist Code of Ethics' and in particular, the key clauses regarding:
 - a. honesty, accuracy, fairness and the right of reply
 - b. Avoiding gratuitous emphasis on the subject matter's inherent characteristics
 - c. Whether the story was influenced by personal beliefs or inducement
 - d. Conflicts of interest
 - e. use of reasonable and honest means to source/develop the story
 - f. respect for grief and privacy
3. How was the entry initiated?
4. What was the public impact and/or impact and/or public benefit?
5. What was the audience engagement with the entry?
6. If the entry was exclusive or contained exclusive elements, describe how it achieved this?
7. Was the entry followed by other media? If 'yes', state which media?
8. What research and investigation went into the entry?
9. Was the content subject to notable resourcing, deadline and/or workload constraints?
10. Was artificial intelligence (AI) used in preparing the entry? If so, describe the program and the degree to which AI was used in the entry's development and publication.
11. Did the creation of the work involve payment for information or an interview, and if it did, what was the nature of that payment?
12. Are you aware of any legal or formal complaint about the published content concerning its accuracy? If 'yes', outline the main elements of the complaint.
13. Should the judges be aware of any other matter not covered in the above questions?

14. **For photographic entries only** – please verify that captions are accurate and provide information about the entire process through which the pictures were taken and published.

JUDGING MEDIA AWARDS

1. Appointment of Judges

Wherever possible, judging panels should reflect the diversity of the Australian community.

Judging panels shall contain journalists from a mix of media organisations and independent practitioners.

Judging panels should be comprised of at least one journalist of XX years' standing in the profession.

Individual judges cannot adjudicate on award entries where a conflict of interest is evident. Conflicts of interest should be disclosed in all circumstances.

2. Guidance for Judges

Prior to commencing judging, confirm that you have read and understood the [MEAA Journalist Code of Ethics](#).

All award entrants (or lead entrants) shall complete the **Entry Questionnaire**.

Entries should honestly reflect the available facts.

Entries should not portray negative stereotypes and 'differences' in a way that conveys that all members of a particular community share a negative characteristic.

Entries shall display an appreciation and observance of relevant cultural protocols and use acceptable descriptors of communities and individuals canvassed in the subject matter.

Entries shall display an appreciation of diversity and an awareness that communities, especially marginalised communities, are not homogenous and that disparate views and beliefs are held across the subject-matter's spectrum.

Judges will have regard to:

- How the story was initiated and followed (with particular credit given for instigating or finding a story)
- Compliance with the MEAA Journalist Code of Ethics – *see below*
- Newsworthiness, including exclusivity
- Public impact or benefit, including audience engagement and serving specific communities
- Consideration of the resources available
- Creativity
- Research and investigation
- Whether artificial intelligence (AI) was used and the degree of AI use
- 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 and
- Excellence in written or verbal communication and/or technical and production skill

In relation to compliance with the **MEAA Journalist Code of Ethics**, judges should give particular consideration to the entry's adherence to the following six clauses.

Clause 1. Report and interpret honestly, striving for accuracy, fairness and disclosure of all essential facts. Do not suppress relevant available facts, or give distorting emphasis. Do your utmost to give a fair opportunity for reply.

Clause 2. Do not place unnecessary emphasis on personal characteristics, including race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, age, sexual orientation, family relationships, religious belief, or physical or intellectual disability.

Clause 4. Do not allow personal interest, or any belief, commitment, payment, gift or benefit, to undermine your accuracy, fairness or independence.

Clause 5. Disclose conflicts of interest that affect, or could be seen to affect, the accuracy, fairness or independence of your journalism. Do not improperly use a journalistic position for personal gain.

Clause 8. Use fair, responsible and honest means to obtain material. Identify yourself and your employer before obtaining any interview for publication or broadcast. Never exploit a person's vulnerability or ignorance of media practice.

Clause 11. Respect private grief and personal privacy. Journalists have the right to resist compulsion to intrude.

3. Legal and Other Challenges

Where an entry is the subject of a legal or other formal complaint, judges may use their best endeavours to comprehend the nature and plausibility of a complaint. The mere presence of a complaint is not a basis to remove an entry from award(s) consideration.

Failure to disclose the existence of a complaint by an entrant may be grounds for exclusion from consideration for an award or later revocation.

Judges have the right to reject an entry that, in their opinion, does not comply with the terms and conditions of the awards and/or in their reasonable opinion misrepresents an essential element of subject matter. The judges' decision will be final.