

2026 ImpriNT

Judging Criteria and Terms & Conditions

Judging Criteria

Submissions will be assessed against the following criteria:

1. **Word and line limits**
 - Prose submissions, including short stories, chapters and other works, must be a maximum of 700 words.
 - Poetry submissions must be a maximum of 40 lines, including formatting and spacing. Where a poem is sufficiently narrow to be presented in two columns, the maximum may be extended to 80 lines.
2. **Genre and form**

Submissions may include fiction, non-fiction, children's or young adult (YA) writing, poetry, short stories, or a chapter from a larger work.
3. **Originality and style**

Themes may be unique, diverse, mundane or ordinary. We are interested in the strength and distinctiveness of your writing style and voice.
4. **Sense of place**

Submissions should demonstrate a developed sense of place, time and atmosphere. Preference will be given to work that is set in, closely connected to, inspired by, or references the Northern Territory and its people, places and experiences, either overtly or obliquely.
5. **Voice and point of view**

The work demonstrates a clear and compelling voice and/or point of view.
6. **Reader engagement**

The writing engages the reader, demonstrating the writer's capacity to orient, affect and hold the reader's attention.
7. **Ideas and narrative**

The selection and crafting of ideas creates a coherent, purposeful and understandable narrative or progression.
8. **Writing craft**

Word choice and writing techniques demonstrate an understanding of craft, with potential for further development through editing and mentoring.
9. **Language**

Writing may incorporate languages other than English as part of the work.
10. **Control and cohesion**

The work demonstrates control of its themes, threads, characters and/or relationships across the piece as a whole.

Terms & Conditions

1. **First Nations Cultural and Intellectual Property**
All work must abide by the [Protocols for using First Nations Cultural and Intellectual Property in the Arts](#).
2. **Representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples**
Where writing includes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander characters, applicants are expected to make genuine efforts to avoid stereotyping, perpetuating inaccurate or negative representations, or causing harm to people or place.
3. **Writing beyond lived experience**
Where applicants are writing about experiences or identities outside their own lived experience, they are expected to make genuine efforts to create nuanced, respectful and authentic characters and representations.
4. **Multiple submissions**
Applicants may submit up to two works. Multiple works may be collated into a single document as part of one application. Only one work per applicant will be selected for development.
5. **Judging decisions**
The decision of the NT Writers' Centre judges is final. No correspondence will be entered into regarding judging decisions.
6. **Number of places**
NT Writers' Centre reserves the right not to award all five available places.
7. **First Nations and CALD representation**
One place will be reserved for a First Nations and/or Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) writer.
8. **Languages other than English**
Submissions may include languages other than English but must be predominantly written in English.
9. **Acknowledgement of authorship**
Authors of selected works will be fully acknowledged in the NT Writers' Centre ImpriNT Journal online publication and in related promotional material.
10. **Formatting and editing**
NT Writers' Centre reserves the right to standardise formatting of selected works, except for poetry submissions where the original formatting will be retained wherever possible. No unreasonable changes will be made to a work without first seeking the author's permission.
11. **Original work**
All submissions must be the applicant's original work.
12. **Use of AI**
AI-generated content is not permitted.

13. Previously published work

Works must not have been previously published. Publication on personal blogs, Facebook or similar personal/social platforms does not constitute previous publication for the purposes of this competition.

14. Copyright

Authors retain copyright of their individual works.

15. Promotion and publicity

By submitting an application, authors agree that NT Writers' Centre may use and promote their selected work and/or excerpts from their work through NT Writers' Centre social media platforms, electronic direct mail (EDMs), newsletters and other promotional channels.

16. Reporting and future promotion

NT Writers' Centre may reference Imprimus and its participating authors in annual reports, grant applications and future media and promotional campaigns.

17. Mentoring requirement

Applicants must identify and secure an approved or suitably qualified mentor before submitting their application. Mentors and editors may be recognised by organisations such as the [Australian Society of Authors \(ASA\)](#), [Institute of Professional Editors \(IPEd\)](#), or [Kill Your Darlings](#), or may otherwise be approved by the NT Writers' Centre.

Current approved NT Writers' Centre mentors are:

- Leni Shilton
- Mary Anne Butler
- Nadine Davidoff

Please contact hello@ntwriters.com.au for any assistance or encouragement.