

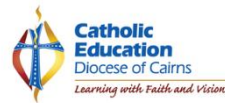
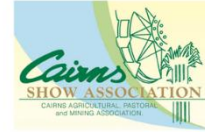
BUSINESS LIAISON ASSOCIATION
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FAR
NORTH LITERARY COMPETITION

SPONSORED BY



Queensland
Government

2026 AWARD SPONSORS



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FAR NORTH LITERARY COMPETITION

About the Business Liaison Association (BLA)

The Business Liaison Association (BLA) is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to building meaningful connections between education and industry across Far North Queensland – from Cardwell to the Torres Strait and west to the Tablelands and Gulf.

Each year, we empower more than 12,000 students from over 37 schools to explore diverse career pathways, engage with industry mentors, and make informed choices about their futures. By bridging the gap between the classroom and the workplace, we help young people step confidently into their next chapter – and in the process, strengthen the local workforce.

BLA embraces multicultural diversity and First Nations perspectives, fostering respect, understanding, and inclusion for all cultures and identities.

Our Mission

To inspire, inform, and empower the next generation while forging lasting partnerships between schools, business, tertiary institutions, and the community. Together, we're cultivating a skilled, sustainable regional workforce ready for tomorrow's opportunities.

Our Department of Education Far North Literary Competition Sponsors

Hosted by the Business Liaison Association (BLA) in partnership with local schools and community stakeholders in Cairns, North Queensland.

The Business Liaison Association extends its sincere appreciation to the Department of Education for their valued sponsorship of the Department of Education Far North Literary Competition.

Through their ongoing support, we continue to strengthen pathways between education, training, and employment, empowering the next generation of students and future professionals across Far North Queensland.

Overview

The Far North Region Literary Competition is open to secondary students across three school categories. Students are invited to submit an **original, imaginative written text** that demonstrates creativity, strong expression, and effective use of literary and stylistic devices.

The choice of genre and subject matter is at the student's discretion, except for **poetry**. Schools are encouraged to review entries for age appropriateness before submission.

Conditions of Entry

The Department of Education Far North Literary Competition is open to all students enrolled in secondary schools within the Far North Queensland region.

To be eligible for consideration, applicants must:

- Be currently enrolled in secondary school within the Far North Queensland region.
- Be studying English or Literature.
- Submit an entry that is the student's own original work.

Each school may submit a **maximum of two entries per category**. Schools that exceed this limit may have their entries disqualified from the competition.

Categories

Category	Year Level	Word Limit
Junior School	Years 7–8	400–600 words
Middle School	Years 9–10	600–1000 words
Senior School	Years 11–12	1000–2000 words

Students may submit **one entry only** in their relevant category.

Prize & Bursaries

Junior School (Years 7–8)

First Prize	\$200
Second Prize	\$150
Encouragement Award	\$100

Middle School (Years 9–10)

First Prize	\$200
Second Prize	\$150
Encouragement Award	\$100

Senior School (Years 11–12)

First Prize	\$200
Second Prize	\$150
Encouragement Award	\$100

Process

1. School-Based Submission

- All entries must be submitted through the English Department of the student's school. This process ensures appropriate coordination, internal selection of student work, and centralised communication with the Competition Coordinator.
- Each school may submit a **maximum of two (2) entries per category**. Schools that exceed this limit may have entries disqualified from the competition.

2. Submission Requirements

Original Work

- All submissions must be the original work of the student. The use of generative artificial intelligence tools (including but not limited to ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini or similar technologies) is strictly prohibited in the drafting or writing of submissions. Entries found to breach this condition will be disqualified.

Submission Format

- Entries must meet the following formatting requirements:
 - Submissions must be word processed
 - Entries must use one-and-a-half line spacing

Submission Method

- A hard copy of the entry, together with the completed Application Form signed by both the student and their teacher, must be mailed or delivered to the Competition Coordinator:

Ms Patrice Honnef

Cairns State High School

P.O. Box 5643, Cairns, QLD 4870

Email: phonn1@eq.edu.au

Phone: (07) 4050 3034

3. Deadline for Entries

- All applications must be received no later than **Friday, 19 June 2026 (Week 9, Term 2)**.
- Late submissions will not be accepted under any circumstances.

4. Required Documentation

Applications must include:

- A completed Application Form
- The student's original imaginative written text, meeting the required word count for their category
- A non-refundable school application fee of \$88.00 (inc. GST) to cover administrative costs (*One fee per school, covering up to two student entries per category*)

5. Judging

- Entries will be assessed by a panel of experts from:
 - Griffith University
 - Central Queensland University (CQU) Cairns
 - James Cook University (JCU) Townsville
- The decision of the adjudicators is final, and no individual feedback will be provided at any stage of the competition.
- Schools with students who place in the competition will be notified following the judging process and will receive an invitation to attend the official awards presentation evening, where final placing will be announced.

6. Consent and Ethical Standards

- By entering the competition, students and schools acknowledge and agree to the following:
- Consent is provided for photographs and video footage to be taken during interviews, judging activities, and the awards event. This material may be used for promotional purposes by the Business Liaison Association (BLA) and its partners.
- All submissions must be the student's own original work and must not involve the use of generative AI tools in the creation of the written response.
- Students and schools are encouraged to positively promote their participation and achievements through appropriate media channels and acknowledge the support of the Business Liaison Association.
- The Business Liaison Association reserves the right to withdraw awards, bursaries, or recognitions in circumstances where a recipient publicly defames, misrepresents, or otherwise undermines the values or reputation of the BLA, its community stakeholders, or affiliated partners.

Payment Information

An invoice of **\$88.00** will be issued to **each** school on the official closing date of the award.

Awards Night Presentation

Winning students will be formally recognised at the invitation-only Aspire Awards Presentation Evening, details as follows:

- Date: Thursday, 17 September 2026
- Time: 4:45 pm – 7:30 pm
- Venue: Cairns Performing Arts Centre (CPAC)

Award Recipient Requirements

- All award recipients are required to attend the Awards Ceremony in full formal school uniform, in accordance with their school's uniform policy.
- A formal invitation will be issued to each recipient, parent, and their respective school.

Application Form

Please forward the application to both:

Hard Copy to be delivered to:

Ms Patrice Honnef

Cairns State High School

P.O. Box 5643, Cairns, QLD 4870

Phone: (07) 4050 3034

Emailed to:

Abigail Peter

Business Liaison Association

events@bla.org.au

Please complete the details below correctly.

Student Candidate Information

Legal Name: _____ Preferred Name: _____

Mobile: _____ DOB: _____

Email: _____ Year Level: _____

Address: _____

***Please note:** If a student is unable to attend the Awards Night, a parent or guardian will be invited to attend and accept the award on the student's behalf.*

Parent Name: _____ Parent Mobile: _____

Parent Email: _____

School Information

School Name: _____ Office Ph: _____

Teacher's Name: _____ Teacher's Mob: _____

Teachers Email: _____

Name of Subject: _____ Level of Achievement: _____

Teacher's signature: _____ Date Signed: _____

Principal to Complete

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Select School Category You Wish to Enter

- Junior School Category for students in Years 7 and 8
- Middle School Category for students in Years 9 and 10
- Senior School Category for students in Years 11 and 12

Terms and Conditions

I confirm that I have read and understood the guidelines, eligibility criteria, and all information accompanying this application. I declare that the submitted work is my original work and has been completed within the past twelve (12) months. If I am selected as a winner of this Competition, I grant permission to the Business Liaison Association (BLA) to reproduce, publish, and promote my work across media platforms, including, but not limited to, television, associated websites, and social media platforms (including Facebook and similar channels). I acknowledge that my work may attract media interest on behalf of the Business Liaison Association, and I agree to make myself reasonably available for related promotional and media activities where practicable.

Student Signature

Date