



About Pens Against Poverty

Pens Against Poverty is a student writing competition that was established in 2015. It was created to foster the abilities of young writers and is founded on the belief that young people want to make a difference, young people have a unique voice, and that creative writing powers the imagination. The competition is actively supported by many local charities in Canberra, as well as by the Anglicare Australia Network nationally.

The competition was conceived with the belief that students write more powerfully when given a genuine purpose and real audience. The writing of young people is often raw, honest and thoroughly fresh which is the most exciting part of the competition. Each year, renowned Australia author, Jackie French has been competition judge. The competition began in Canberra, but was expanded to become a national competition with the support of the Anglicare Australia Network in 2020.

The event is an official activity of Anti-Poverty Week, and its themes have never been more relevant. Over 3.3 million Australians currently live in poverty, or one in eight Australians. This includes one in six children. Since the competition began, schools across Australia have participated with thousands of entries that explore these vital themes. Past themes have included Shelter, Playing Fair, The Other Side, On the Edge, Courage in Kindness, Lost and Found, Time for Change and Finding a Home. This year, our theme is **Voices for Change**.

The competition is free, and the closing date is **Friday 15 September 2023**, with the winners will be announced during Anti-Poverty Week, which will take place between 15-21 October 2023. Winning writers are published online and have a chance to win some amazing prizes donated from our key sponsor, Hesta Super Fund. His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC hosts an annual reception to announce and recognise the winners at Government House in Canberra.

If you have any questions about the competition, contact Maiy Azize, Deputy Director, Anglicare Australia on Maiy.Azize@anglicare.asn.au or 0434 200 794.