Centre for Stories 2025

First Nations Elder & Editor Memoir Fellowship Guidelines

Proudly funded by Lotterywest

1. Applications are invited from people who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander and who are currently residing in Western Australia and are over the age of 18.
2. Fellowships are available for selection in 2026. Each fellowship supports two fellows, working as a pair. People can apply as a pair who already know each other, or Elders can apply by themselves if they are wanting Centre for Stories to find a writer to pair them up with. Two Fellows will be selected to work together or an Elder will be paired with a First Nations writer to form a new Fellow pair.
3. The Elder Fellow may be an accepted Elder within their community and/or a senior knowledge-keeper and cultural custodian. Centre for Stories recognises not all senior Aboriginal leaders will call themselves an 'Elder' and we will adjust our communications for the Elder Fellow's title in consultation with the successful applicant.
4. The Editor Fellow must identify as a First Nations writer and/or editor and will compose the Elder Fellow's life stories into a written memoir. We encourage participants who are related to the Elder Fellow to apply, however this is not mandatory.
5. If the applicants are living regionally outside of the Perth Metropolitan area, the applicants acknowledge some support for the program will be run virtually via Zoom or another online format suitable to the applicants. Please inform us of your needs and any concerns you have before applying.
6. Applicants are required to fill out the submission form online to be considered.
7. Applications are open on an ongoing basis from August 2025 to approximately September 2026 and the portal will close at a time decided by Centre for Stories.
8. Applicants must have a true, life story they wish to record and work on transcribing, writing, and editing into a short memoir between 12,000 to 15,000 words.
9. Oral recordings and other artistic forms may also make up part of the final submission and/or any final creative outcomes, however a written memoir is a mandatory outcome for this Fellowship and Editors will be selected for their interest in a writing or editing career.

10. The final memoir project may be written in a language(s) other than English however interpretation/translation notes must be provided in English. If you require a language interpreter, please let Centre for Stories know in your application form as we may be able to provide one.
11. Submissions must not have been previously published online or in print, including in journals or anthologies. Publication on personal social media channels is acceptable.
12. Submissions with derogatory, harmful, or xenophobic content will not be accepted.
13. Applicants are required to provide a project proposal statement (no longer than 500 words). The proposal statement may be provided in written format or as an oral recording. Written submissions must be in Word Document format. We do not accept PDF or any other form.
14. Written submissions must be 500 words or less in Times New Roman, size 12 font, 1.5 spacing.
15. Oral recordings submitted for the proposal statement must be in MP3 or WAV format. Oral recordings must be under 3 minutes in duration.
16. Applicants must also provide two brief statements of why they feel they need this fellowship and how it will support them (under 200 words), and one statement providing more information about the relationship between the Elder and Editor and how and why they will work well together.
17. The Editor applicant must show an example of their writing from between 800 to 2000 words. It is optional but recommended to submit a one-page CV with a list of any writing publications/achievements and residency/writing experience. *Tip: We encourage your writing example to be in a similar genre and tone to the memoir you intend to work on for this fellowship.*
18. Multiple submissions by the same person will not be accepted.
19. Any illustrations, photos or artwork that accompany your submission must be attached in the application form. Title the image file with the applicant's first and last names.
20. Successful applications will be contacted by email on a case-by-case basis, generally within a few weeks after we receive your application.
21. Both participants must be willing to complete a brief phone call with Centre for Stories either virtually or in-person before the final decision is made, to ensure you are still interested in completing the fellowship.
22. Successful applicants agree to participate in the project between now and December 2026. Applicants must be available to:

a. Elder and Editor to meet each other for at least a couple hours each week for 4 months – please factor this into your schedule and confirm you have availability for this.
b. The Editor to receive up to **10 hours of mentoring** from a First Nations editor selected by Centre for Stories and/or Centre for Stories staff member Casey Mulder to assist them with their final written piece.

23. Successful applicants will receive a stipend of $2000 each (plus super); an online publishing opportunity of the final piece in Portside Review; and if based in Perth, access to Centre for Stories' venue as a writing and recording space (equipment and support provided); and access to other partner organisations and networks in the publishing industry.
24. Successful applicants will be asked to provide an invoice to receive each of their three instalments of the total stipend of $2000 (plus super). They must complete Centre for Stories standard invoice template. Alternatively, they can complete one invoice for the full fee at the end of the fellowship and upon submission of the final piece.
25. The fee will be paid only upon receiving a submitted written memoir as agreed to in these terms.
26. Successful applicants will be profiled on the Centre for Stories' website and social media. On request, successful applicants agree to be photographed for publicity purposes. Successful applicants agree to provide Centre for Stories and Portside Review a photo of themselves and bios for marketing and communication purposes.
27. Centre for Stories reserves the right to not select any of the applicants if proposals are not deemed suitable.
28. Centre for Stories also reserves the right to award the fellowship to a previous unsuccessful applicant from previous programs of the Elder & Editor fellowship, in the event no new submissions are made.
29. Centre for Stories will not award a fellowship to an existing or previously successful Elder & Editor Fellow who has already received funding from Centre for Stories for this purpose.

Centre for Stories is dedicated to making our programs accessible and inclusive. Please get in touch if you have any questions about the program.