

Sample form, not for offline completion.

Visit <https://wheelercentre.grantplatform.com> to apply.

The Next Chapter 2026

Apply for the 2026 Next Chapter writers' program.

If you have any questions about any of the fields below, check our [application guidelines](#) and [frequently asked questions](#).

Title of Work

I have understood the conditions and guidelines.

You can read the [conditions and guidelines](#) here.

Phone Number

Street Address

Please enter your street address in the following format:

Unit number Street City State Postcode

Date of Birth

Employment and/or publication history

250 words

Education History

250 words

Have you applied for The Next Chapter before?

Yes

No

Note: If you've applied in previous years, you are permitted to enter again – but not with the same 10,000-word sample of writing, unless it's been substantially reworked. If you are submitting a reworked version of the sample you submitted in a previous year, please use the 'Anything else?' field at the end of this form to indicate how the work has changed.

Tell us what you hope to get out of this scheme – explaining how you’ll personally benefit from this opportunity.

300
words

What is it that makes your voice, your story, remarkable? Have you previously encountered any specific ways in which the publishing industry was inaccessible to you?

Check the [selection criteria](#) for guidance.

Please provide a one-page letter of support from someone who can vouch for your capacity to deliver the work.



The letter of support must be supplied in PDF format, using the file naming convention `surname_firstinitial_LOS.pdf`. The name you are using for the file is your own, not the name of the individual providing the letter.

This could be a teacher, employer, coworker, friend or relative – basically anyone who has witnessed your work habits and can make a reasonable assessment of your commitment.

Provide a brief summary of your work sample – the context/inspiration/anything you think we should know about the work. 199 words

Attach your writing sample here:



For fiction/non-fiction prose, 10,000 words of a book-length work-in-progress, with 10% leeway either way (i.e. a minimum of 9,000 and maximum of 11,000 words).

For poetry, 10-15 completed pages with a view to producing a book-length work of poetry of at least 50 pages (not a chapbook).

For a graphic novel: 15–30 pages of a work-in-progress.

For more information about the writing sample, see our [FAQs](#).

The writing sample must be supplied in PDF format as a single file, using the file naming convention *surname_firstinitial.pdf*

Please do not include your name in the body of your writing sample.

Did you use generative artificial intelligence (AI) to create any part of this sample?

Yes

No

If 'yes', please ensure that these sections of your writing sample are clearly labeled as being AI generated.

The genre of your work sample

Fiction

Non-fiction

Young Adult

Poetry

Graphic novel

Other

You can tick multiple options.

If 'Other' please specify in the next question

If 'Other', please specify: (optional)

Do you wish to apply for the Malcolm Robertson Fellowship? (optional)

Yes

The Malcolm Robertson Fellowship will be awarded to an emerging poet. All applicants who apply for these fellowship places will also be considered for the eight other general fellowship places.

The following questions are to be used for our internal assessment processes and reporting obligations (where the data will be anonymous), and will remain private. They are not threshold eligibility questions. If you prefer not to answer, that's fine.

What is your gender? (optional)

Are you Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander? (optional)

Do you identify as living with a disability? (optional)

Do you identify as Culturally and Linguistically Diverse? (optional)

Do you identify as a Person of Colour? (optional)

Do you identify as LGBTQIA+? (optional)

Did you come to Australia as a refugee or asylum seeker? (optional)

Let us know if you would like us to contact you with updates at The Wheeler Centre.

I give permission for the Wheeler Centre to contact me about future writing opportunities, competitions (optional) and related events.

I acknowledge that I have read the Wheeler Centre's privacy policy.

You can read The Wheeler Centre's [Privacy Policy](#) here.

All information submitted in this process is true and correct.

By checking this box, you agree that the information contained in your application is true and correct.