

OUR ORIGIN STORY

The competition is named for long-time English-Speaking Union (Qld) member and its immediate past president, Professor Roly Sussex. Roly is an Emeritus Professor of Applied Language Studies at the University of Queensland and a leading champion of language and languages in Australia.



His ABC Radio program "A Word in Your Ear" has been running for 27 years. This prized literary award was launched in 2012 and fosters original creative writing of outstanding quality, including experimental, challenging or thought-provoking work.

PRIZE CATEGORIES

SECONDARY SCHOOL DIVISION

First Prize - **\$1000**
Second Prize - **\$500**

OPEN DIVISION

First Prize - **\$7500**
Second Prize - **\$1500**

Shortlisted entries and Judges Commendations will also be announced.

The results will be announced in early 2026 through the website of the ESU: www.esu.org.au. The release of the results will be notified to entrants by email.

ELIGIBILITY

Authors must be Australian citizens or Australian residents who are not related to the judges or members of the Board of the English-Speaking Union (Queensland). Entrants to the Secondary School Division must be enrolled full time at a secondary school. Submitted stories should not have been published before.

JUDGING PANELS

Chair and Chief Judge, Open Division:
David Fagan
Open Division Judges:
Kerry Davies and Belinda Pollard
Chief Judge, Secondary School Division:
Brian Clarke
Secondary Division Judges:
Talisa Pariss-Proby and Georgina Steele

Email ESU (Qld) with any queries: rolysussexstory@esu.org.au

ENTRIES OPEN NOW FOR 2025

Entries close - 5pm (AEST) 1 September 2025

No submissions will be accepted after this date.