

Media Release

4 August 2020



SBS is looking for the next generation of diverse Australian writers

SBS is inviting aspiring writers from diverse backgrounds to share their stories and have their voices heard with the launch of the **SBS Emerging Writers' Competition**.

Open for entries from 15 August – 15 September 2020, the SBS Emerging Writers' Competition is searching for the next generation of bold new voices that reflect the diversity of contemporary Australia, providing them with a platform to share their unique experiences and perspectives.

An initiative from **SBS Voices**, SBS's online platform which champions the voices of diverse and often underrepresented Australians, the competition has been created to support the discovery and development of emerging talent and contribute to greater diversity in Australian storytelling.

Writers aged 18 and over are invited to submit a memoir piece of 1,000-2,000 words on the topic of 'Growing up in diverse Australia'. The winning submission will be awarded a \$5,000 prize to further their storytelling future, as well as having their story published on SBS Voices.

Entries will be judged by acclaimed author Melissa Lucashenko, winner of the 2019 Miles Franklin award for her novel *Too Much Lip*, and Benjamin Law, creator and co-writer of the award-winning SBS TV program *The Family Law* and editor of *Growing Up Queer in Australia*.

SBS Emerging Writers' Competition judge, Benjamin Law, said: "The SBS Emerging Writers' Competition is so necessary and important. Given the rich diversity of Australia's multicultural communities, we don't nearly have enough of that diversity in publishing. And we're definitely not hearing enough from young people. Thankfully we have a lot more young and diverse writers coming up through the ranks, but I want to hear more."

Fellow judge, Melissa Lucashenko, said: "Australia is so much more than we have been led to believe. This is a country of Blak, brown and yellow voices, both heard and unheard. It is the country of those who know they don't feature in the mainstream imagination. The country of those excluded, and downtrodden and for too long left out of the picture. As a First Nations writer and the child of refugees, I feel a strong compulsion to say to emerging writers: you matter. Your story matters. I'm listening. Together we can make change happen."

Marshall Heald, Director of TV and Online Content at SBS, added: "SBS is committed to sharing stories that explore diverse cultures and experiences, and reflect what it means to be Australian today. We're excited about the opportunity to discover and support new talent through the SBS Emerging Writers' Competition and elevate the next generation of diverse voices through this important initiative."

Special Broadcasting Service

14 Herbert Street, Artarmon NSW 2064 Australia sbs.com.au

Tel: +61 2 9430 2828



There will also be a \$3,000 prize awarded for second place, and two honourable mentions will each receive \$1,000, to support the emerging writers to further develop their skills and knowledge. Winning entries will be announced in November 2020, with all winning entries having their stories published on the SBS Voices website.

Writers from diverse backgrounds, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, are encouraged to enter submissions to share their unique experiences.

Entries open 15 August 2020 and must be submitted online at [sbs.com.au/writers](https://www.sbs.com.au/writers).

SBS Voices is a platform for and champion of emerging writers from diverse backgrounds in Australia, particularly women. In the past two years, the website is proud to have published more than 100 new writers, many of them coming through its emerging Asian-Australian writers project, and its Muslim women writers' series, as well as its partnership with Sweatshop writers collective in Parramatta, Sydney.

ENDS

For more information, contact:

Sarah Vahtola

Corporate Communications Manager

sarah.vahtola@sbs.com.au

0497 532 782

NOTES TO EDITORS:

More about the SBS Emerging Writers' Competition

Competition dates:

Entries are open from 15 August – 15 September 2020.

How to enter:

Writers (Australians aged 18+, yet to be published authors of a book) will be asked to submit a first-person memoir piece on the topic of 'Growing up in diverse Australia'. Go to www.sbs.com.au/writers for more information, and for the competition Terms & Conditions.

Prizes:

The winner will be awarded \$5,000 to support the development of their storytelling. A \$3,000 prize will be awarded for second place, and \$1,000 each for two honourable mentions. Winners and runners up will be published on the [SBS Voices](https://www.sbs.com.au/voices) website ([sbs.com.au/voices](https://www.sbs.com.au/voices)).

About the SBS Emerging Writers' Competition judges:

Melissa Lucashenko is an acclaimed Goorie author of Bundjalung and European heritage. Her novel, *Mullumbimby*, won the 2013 Queensland Literary Awards for Best Fiction and her sixth

Special Broadcasting Service

14 Herbert Street, Artarmon NSW 2064 Australia [sbs.com.au](https://www.sbs.com.au)

Tel: +61 2 9430 2828



novel, *Too Much Lip*, won the 2019 Miles Franklin award. Melissa is also a Walkley Award winner for her non-fiction work, and a founding member of human rights organisation Sisters Inside.

Benjamin Law is the author of *The Family Law*, *Gaysia: Adventures in the Queer East* and editor of *Growing Up Queer in Australia*. Benjamin created and co-wrote the award-winning SBS TV series *The Family Law*, based on his memoir, and his debut play *Torch the Place*.

About SBS Voices

[SBS Voices](https://sbs.com.au/voices) (sbs.com.au/voices) is an online platform which provides a voice for, and champions, emerging writers from diverse backgrounds in Australia, particularly women. It aims to foster a sense of belonging for all Australians, by celebrating the unique stories of Australia's emerging writers.

SBS Voices has a mission of raising the voices of marginalised Australians with a focus on first person, memoir-style content and video. In the past two years, SBS Voices is proud to have published more than 100 new writers, sharing their unique stories and perspectives with all Australians. Many of those writers had never been published before.

SBS Voices has a successful partnership with [Sweatshop](#), a diverse writers' collective in Parramatta, Sydney, now in its third year. It has also developed an [Asian-Australian Emerging Writers project](#) edited by Candice Chung, and a [Muslim women writers'](#) series edited by Sarah Malik.

Special Broadcasting Service

14 Herbert Street, Artarmon NSW 2064 Australia sbs.com.au
Tel: +61 2 9430 2828