



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, that young people have a unique voice, and that creative writing powers the imagination. The competition is supported by many charities, as well as by the Anglicare Australia Network nationally.

Pens Against Poverty is an official activity of Anti-Poverty Week and provides a meaningful opportunity for students to engage with issues of poverty, homelessness and social inclusion while developing their creative writing skills. This includes one in six children.

Since the competition began, thousands of students from schools across Australia have participated, producing thoughtful, imaginative and often deeply moving pieces of writing. Past themes have included Shelter, Playing Fair, The Other Side, On the Edge, Courage in Kindness, Lost and Found, Time for Change, Finding a Home, and Voices for Change. This year, our theme is **Where I Belong**.

The competition is free to enter and is open to all Australian students in Years 3–10. Winners will be selected across multiple age categories, with prizes awarded to students and schools. Entries close on **Friday 11 September 2026**. Winners will be recognised with a special reception in Canberra hosted by Anglicare Australia.

We invite you to share the attached information and poster with relevant teachers, English and Humanities coordinators, and school newsletter editors. All the information is at www.pensagainstpoverty.com, where entries can be uploaded directly.

If you have any questions about the competition, please don't hesitate to contact Anglicare Australia directly on 02 6230 1775 or anglicare@anglicare.asn.au.