

Williamstown Literary Festival 2025

# 2025 Jennifer Burbidge Short Story Award

**For a short story on the theme of disability in an Australian setting**

**For writers across Australia**

**\$500 first prize**

**Competition closes at midnight March 7, 2025**

The Jennifer Burbidge Short Story Award was established in 2001 by the late Mary and Andrew Burbidge to honour the life of their eldest daughter, Jennifer, who died aged 21. The award is funded through royalties from Mary's memoir *Forever Baby*.

Since 2021, the Burbidge Prize has been offered as part of the Williamstown Literary Festival suite of writing awards.

## **Conditions of entry:**

1. The prize is open to all writers in Australia. Entries must be the author's original work of not more than **3000 words** and involve the **theme of disability** in an Australian setting.
2. Entries must be unpublished work that has not won any other award. Entrants should not submit stories that are partly – or fully -- generated by AI. Any AI use for creative or editing purposes should be attributed, with details of how it was used.
3. Stories can be fiction or non-fiction. They should be in Arial 11-point font, 1.5 spaced.
4. Entries close at **midnight, March 7, 2025**. Entries will not be accepted after that date.
5. An entry fee of \$15 must be paid to the Williamstown Literary Festival Bendigo Bank account, BSB: 633-000 account number 203291216, with 'JBSSA' and the author's name as the reference. For



*Jennifer Burbidge*

example, the reference for Mary Writer's submission would be 'JBSSA Mary Writer'. Entries are not valid until the entry fee is paid.

6. The story should be uploaded as a Word document (*not* PDF) to the Williamstown Literary Festival's website at <https://www.willylitfest.org.au/home/writing-prizes/the-jennifer-burbidge-short-story-award/>. Please use the title of your entry as the name of your Word document, not your name. The website includes an online form for submitting your details, including your name, bio, postal and email addresses, title of your entry, and instructions for paying the \$15 entry fee. If you have difficulties with this, please send your story as an attachment and email to the Festival Secretary at [c.ringrose@willylitfest.org.au](mailto:c.ringrose@willylitfest.org.au).

7. Authors may enter separate individual works, provided that the \$15 entry fee is paid for each entry. Please use a new entry form for each additional entry.

8. Williamstown Literary Festival encourages the use of inclusive and non-offensive language. More information is available <https://pwd.org.au/resources/disability-info/language-guide/>

9. The winner will be announced at the presentation ceremony for the writing awards at Williamstown Literary Festival in **June 2025** and the winning entry will be published on the Williamstown Literary Festival Writing Anthology and website. Authors retain copyright, but the Williamstown Literary Festival Committee reserves the right to reproduce the whole or any part of the story in any format (whether or not it is a winning entry) for purposes of promoting the Williamstown Literary Festival. The winning entry and judges' report from 2024 can be read on the WillyLitFest website <https://www.willylitfest.org.au>

10. Williamstown Literary Festival and Jennifer Burbidge Short Story Award reserve the right to split the prize money if there are equally deserving winners.