



The Convent Writers Residency Program — Guidelines

The Convent Writers Residency Program offers writers dedicated time, space, and support to develop new work within a beautiful heritage-listed setting. Designed to enable focused creative development, the Residency provides an environment where writers can deepen their practice and advance a project.

Following the successful introduction of the program last year, we are delighted to expand the opportunity in 2026. The Convent will offer three 12-week Residencies, supporting writers with dedicated studio space, an honorarium, and mentorship from ACF staff and the broader tenant community.

At its core, the Residency provides the rare gift of time and space to immerse yourself in your work, think deeply, test ideas, and remain with them long enough for new directions and forms to emerge.

Writers are invited to extend their practice, with opportunities to share work-in-progress outcomes through the Convent's public programs.

While primarily self-directed, the Residency is embedded within a generous creative community. Writers are encouraged to participate in *Words and Wine*, shared readings, in-conversation events, feedback exchanges, and collegial discussions that continue to resonate well beyond the residency period.



About the program

We are offering three residencies at twelve weeks each. Residencies are suitable for writers of any age and at any stage of their development.

Available dates:

- Monday 6 April — Monday 29 June 2026
- Wednesday 1 July — Wednesday 23 September 2026
- Friday 25 September — Friday 18 December 2026

Inclusions:

- An honorarium of \$2,000 to support the creation of new work
- A dedicated studio space at the Convent for the duration of the Residency
- Mentorship and support from Convent staff and the tenant community
- Promotional support for the Residency and its associated public outcomes
- Subsidised venue hire opportunities.

About the studio

Abbotsford Convent is home to 120+ creative spaces, home to artists, creative industries, educational providers and wellbeing practitioners.

The dedicated Writers Residency studio:

- Is approx. 3m x 3m (10m²), located in the dedicated Writer's Wing on the second floor of the iconic Convent Building.
- Comes furnished with a desk and chair.
- Is carpeted and contains hydronic heating.
- Includes access to free public wifi, in addition to shared kitchenette, bathroom and shower facilities located nearby.
- Is self-contained and lockable, with 24-hour access.
- Is accessible via a public lift.

Applications close 11.59pm, Sunday 15 March 2026 (AEDT).

Successful applicants will be notified by Thursday 27 March 2026.



Eligibility and Selection Criteria

The Convent invites proposals from Australian and international artists who meet the following criteria:

- Demonstrated commitment, passion and capacity to develop and extend their writing practise.
- Describe why this work is vital now and how this Residency may enhance the development of their project.
- Display potential for the proposed work to be further developed and/or presented for audiences at the Convent.
- Have followed Creative Australia protocols if engaging First Nations writers or using First Nations Cultural IP.
- Can commit to using the studio throughout the Residency period.
- Have the right to live and work in Australia for the Residency period. Please note, the Convent does not provide accomodation or sponsor visas.

All applicants must submit

- A completed online application form addressing the criteria above.
- Provide supporting material that reflects your writing practice (e.g. publications, excerpts, website links or documentation), up to three writing samples (1.5 spaced, maximum five pages each).
- An up-to-date CV or biography (including publications, grants, awards, fellowships or reviews)
- Name and contact details of a professional referee.

Assessment

Applications are assessed by a panel from a range of backgrounds. We may, in some circumstances, require an interview with an applicant.

Enquiries

Contact programming@abbotsfordconvent.com.au

Apply now.

The Convent Writers Residency Program 2026 is generously supported by the Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund.