

THE 2023 PLAIN ENGLISH SPEAKING AWARD (PESA)

A Public Speaking Competition for Year 11 and 12 Students

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THE PLAIN ENGLISH SPEAKING AWARD (PESA)

HISTORY OF PESA

The Award began in Victoria in 1977 as a public speaking competition for senior school students from government and non-government schools and expanded to all states and territories in 1978. Today competitions are conducted in schools at regional and state levels. State winners represent their school and state at a national final hosted by each state or territory in rotation. Each state winner and runner-up receive a cash prize provided by the Australia-Britain Society Foundation. The winner also receives travel and accommodation expenses to enable them to compete in the national final. The national final winner receives sponsorship from the Big Brother Movement to enable them to compete as the Australian representative in the international Plain English-Speaking competition conducted in London, UK, organised by the English Speaking Union.

WHAT IS THE AWARD

The Plain English Speaking Award is a public speaking competition open to senior secondary school students. It was created to encourage the best use of the English language in Australian schools. Taking part has been recognised by thousands of young people as a valuable experience and, for the participants and winners, a worthy mention in their resume.

AIM OF THE AWARD

The Plain English Speaking Award recognises the key role of the spoken English Language as a link among Australians and as a medium for international communication and understanding. The primary aim of the Award is to encourage and maintain the best use of clear and effective English.

REGISTRATIONS

Two students (one female and one male) from either year 11 or 12 may enter from each school. In the case of single-gender schools, two students may enter. Students must be between 15 and 18 years on 1st September 2023. The students must be Australian citizens. The selected students will represent their school in the state semi-final and, if successful go on to the final conducted in Perth, WA. The winner of the state final will represent Western Australia in the national final.

SPEECHES

At all levels, students will be expected to give two speeches – a prepared talk of 8 minutes and an impromptu talk of 3 minutes. At the state and national final, there will be a brief interview. Students choose their own topic for the prepared talk, and the adjudicator will provide the subject for the impromptu talk. The same talk is to be delivered at all stages of the competition. The impromptu talk cannot be read from notes.

Adjudication will be based on a) the content of the talk; b) the structure and organisation; c) the achievement of purpose; and d) the level of interest and student's delivery, including clarity, fluency, tone, assurance, enthusiasm and the use of appropriate language.

Introduction to the Australia-Britain Society

President Australia-Britain Society Western Australia
Madeleine McPherson

The Australia-Britain Society is an independent, apolitical organisation, whose role is to maintain, encourage and strengthen the numerous links between Australia and Britain.

In 1971 two sister societies were founded by the respective Prime Ministers of Britain and Australia with the objective of recognising the value of a continuing relationship that would contribute to historical and cultural exchanges. The Australia-Britain Society was first founded in NSW, and later, branches were developed in the Australian Capital Territory, Victoria, and Queensland. The Western Australia Branch was established in 1982. Each Branch operates as an independent incorporated body but with the synthesis of a common aim to promote and foster cultural links between Australia and Britain. These cultural links are expressed through cultural exchanges and observance of Australian and British significant events such as Australia Day, the Queen's Birthday and Remembrance Day.

In 1994, The Australia-Britain Society Foundation was formed by the then National body of the Australia-Britain Society under the auspices of the Cook Society. The Foundation provides a specific body for tax-deductible donations to be made for specific purposes embraced by the Foundation Trust Deed. The Foundation is listed on the Australian Government Register of Cultural Organisations.

The Australia-Britain Society Foundation administers the Foundation Fund, which provides a range of grants and scholarships *"for fostering, promotion and development of the performing and other arts in Australia with particular emphasis on the arts and culture as being part of the British Isles and without restricting the interpretation of this clause."* There is a strong focus on, but not limited to, the visual and performing arts, literature, and the English language.

The Australia-Britain Society, Western Australia Branch, administers the foundation's sponsorship of the state Plain English-Speaking Award (PESA). This includes cash prizes and expenses for the state PESA winner and WA PESA Coordinator to attend the national final held interstate. The national winner receives funding from the Big Brother Movement to participate in an international competition organised by the English-Speaking Union in London, UK.

The Australia-Britain Society Western Australia provides a state grant to the Western Australia Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) to be used by a graduate to travel to London for additional tuition or training.

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“The Plain English Speaking Award recognises the key role of the English Language as a link among Australians and as a medium of international communication and understanding. The primary aim of the Award is to encourage and maintain the best use of clear and effective English.”

AIM OF THE AWARD

The PESA Program aims “to promote and develop the widespread use of plain, spoken English in Australian schools.

- Two students may be selected according to each school's specific criteria.
- Coeducational schools are encouraged to select one female and one male contestant.
- Single-gender schools may select two students to enter.
- Student registrations for the PESA competition will take place between the 1st of March to the 1st of April 2023.
- The successful students will represent their school at the state semi-final and, if successful, go on to the state final competition to be held in Perth, WA.

THE COMPETITION IS HELD IN 4 STAGES:

1. In-school selection	March 2023	At the discretion of each school
	Registration Period 1st March to 1st April	
2. Semi-final	Saturday 8th June 2023 Saturday 15th June 2023	The competition will be held at: The Victoria League Rooms 276 Onslow Rd, Shenton Park
3. State final	Saturday 20th July 2023	
4. National final	August 2023 (Date to be announced)	TBC

EACH STUDENT WILL PREPARE:

- An eight-minute prepared speech on the student's own choice of subject.
- A three-minute impromptu speech. The topic will be given by the adjudicator on the day. Time is given to prepare during the competition.
- The impromptu speech cannot be read from notes, but these notes may be used as a prompt.
- A three-minute interview will only be conducted at the state final and national final level.
- Each student must present the same speech for the in-school, semi-final, state final and national final competitions.
- All students who participate in the semi -final and state final receive a certificate for their resume.

NATIONAL FINAL:

- The winner of the state final will represent the state and their school at the national final.
- The winner of the national final will represent Australia in an international competition conducted by the English-Speaking Union in London, 2023.

PRIZES SPONSERED BY AUSTRALIAN-BRITAIN SOCIETY WA INC:

- The winner of the state competition receives a cash prize of \$200.
- The second-place speaker receives a cash prize of \$100.
- The third-place speaker receives a cash prize of \$50.
- The state winner can display the PESA shield at their school for one year.
- Travel and accommodation expenses will enable the state winner to compete in the national final.
- The WA PESA Coordinator is funded to accompany the state winner to the national final.
- The winner of the national final receives \$5,000 from the Big Brother Movement to enable them to compete in an international competition organised by the English-Speaking Union in London, UK in 2023
- The runner-up at the national level receives a cash prize of \$150.

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ENTRY CONDITIONS

1. Contestants must be Australian citizens or permanent residents of Western Australia.
2. The competition is open to secondary school students aged between 15 and 18 years on 1st September 2023.
3. Schools may enter a maximum of two students in one year.
4. Students may enter the competition more than once, with the proviso in number 5.
5. A student who has won at the national level may not compete in the national final a second time.
6. The adjudicators' decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into.
7. Individual written assessments of speakers will not be given at any time.
8. Adjudicators may give verbal feedback on the day of the final competition.
9. The entrant and support teacher are responsible for complying with these entry conditions.
10. All Student Registration Forms (A – D) must be completed and emailed to the WA PESA Coordinator by 1st April 2023.
11. Microphones and lecterns may be used in large rooms but not in smaller venues.
12. Visual aides (PowerPoint presentations, slides or videos) are not permitted during the competition.
13. The Australia-Britain Society Western Australia and the Foundation, the school and its staff and agents will not be held responsible for any comments made by students who participate in the Plain English Speaking Award competition. The opinions of the students and entrants do not represent the opinion of the President, committee or members of the Australia-Britain Society WA, the WA State PESA Coordinator, the Adjudicators, or PESA National.
14. Students take full responsibility for the content of their speeches and should be mindful that their speeches may be printed, published, recorded or distributed and are subject to the Australian laws of defamation, slander, libel, and plagiarism.
15. Students must sign a photograph waiver as photographs, video footage and excerpts from speeches may be taken at state and national competitions.

PESA AWARD WINNERS 1978 - 2022

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Year	Christian Name	Surname	School
2022	Thomas	Subi	Hale School
2020-21	<i>No competition due to COVID-19</i>		
2019	Zachary	Matthews	Guildford Grammar College
2018	Jemima	Reid	Santa Maria College
2017	Esther	Nixon	Ursula Frayne Catholic College
2016	Natasha	Tonga	Shenton College
2015	Sam	Coten	Corpus Christi College
2014	Rebekah	Craggs	Corpus Christi College
2013	Lachlan	Sudlow	Hale School
2012	Xavier	Evans	Churchlands Senior High School
2011	Adam	Kovalves	Ballajura Community School
2010	Shane	Chandra	Hale School
2009	Sam	Scaife	Perth Modern School
2008	Michael	Honiball	Churchlands Senior High School
2007	Sophie	Bowen	Corpus Christi College
2006	Emma	Greeny	Iona Presentation College
2005	Izaak	Lim	Guildford Grammar School
2004	Jenny	Jiang	Presbyterian Ladies College
2003	Thom	Smith	Mt Lawley Senior High School
2002	Jessie	Giles	Mt Lawley Senior High School
2001	Georgia	Henderson	Presbyterian Ladies College
2000	Nastasya	Tay	Presbyterian Ladies College
1999	Amy	Boggan	Rockingham Senior High School
1998	Shanthi	Robertson	Penrhos College
1997	Daniel	Underhill	Willetton Senior High School
1996	Julie	Taylor	Presbyterian Ladies College
1995	Emma	Stopher	St Mark's Anglican Community College
1994	Bree	Shilken	Perth College
1993	Fiona	Seaward	Harvey Agricultural High School
1992	Jason	Maroudes	Applecross Senior High School
1991	Andrew	Horobin	Carine Senior High School
1990	Sarah	Jones	St Bridget's College
1989	Karl	Laufmann	Guildford Grammar
1988	Elisabeth	Moran	Iona Presentation College
1987	Christie	Phillips	St Hilda's Anglican School for Girls
1986	Lindy	Sardelic	Presbyterian Ladies College
1985	Sandra	Crockford	Mt Lawley Senior High School
1984	Richard	Douglas	John Curtin Senior High School
1983	Betta	Keranati	Willetton Senior High School
1982	Harry	Protoolis	Balga Senior High School
1981	Stuart	Shepherd	Scotch College
1980	Sean	Hawkes	Hale School
1979	Susan	Wittenoom	John XX111 College
1978	Leon	Cohen	Scotch College

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EXAMPLE OF ADJUDICATION MARKSHEET

Student		Topic of prepared speech	
School		Adjudicator	
Criteria The dot points below are not intended to be marked individually	SECTION A Prepared Speech 8 minutes with a warning bell at 6 minutes	SECTION B Impromptu Speech 3 minutes with a warning bell at 2 minutes	
Subject Matter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the prepared speech subject matter suitable and substantial? Is the speech original and intelligent in its exploration of the subject? Did the speaker develop the argument logically and effectively? Was there a satisfactory conclusion which lent a sense of completeness to the speech? Did the speech carry a convincing message? 			
	/25	/20	
Use of Plain English <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Was the message or point of view conveyed in a clear understandable and appropriate language? Were the pace, tone and volume suitable and effective? Did the speaker succeed in communicating effectively with the audience? Did the speaker avoid distractions such as over pacing, extravagant gestures, dramatization? Was the speaker's style fluent and natural? Was the speech spoken, not read? Was the speech length 8 minutes +/- 20 secs? Was the impromptu speech length 3 minutes +/- 20 secs? 			
	/25	/20	
TIMING INFRINGEMENTS			
SCORES	Prepared Speech Score	Impromptu Speech Score	
	/50	/40	
Criteria	SECTION C Interview 3 minutes	General Comments	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Did the speaker respond to questions intelligently and fluently? Did the speaker reveal wide general knowledge and detailed knowledge of the subject matter of her/his prepared speech? Was humour, if used, used effectively? Did the speaker convey an impression of sincerity and conviction? 			
SCORES	Interview Score	Total Score	
	/10	/100	

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FORM A STUDENT REGISTRATION FORM

Forms may be sent between 1st March and 1st April 2023.

Name:			
DOB:		Age:	
School:		Year Level:	
Home address:			
Student mobile:			
Student email:			
Teacher name:			
Teacher mobile:			
Teacher email:			
Topic of eight-minute prepared speech:			
<p>STUDENT SELECTED TO REPRESENT THE SCHOOL</p> <p>Each student selected for the State semi-final completes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Student Registration Form b) Student Information Form c) Student Waiver Form d) Schools Invoice <p>Email forms to the WA Coordinator for PESA at ofuderer@gmail.com</p> <p>Arrange payment of the \$20 semi-final registration fee for each student by 1st April 2023</p> <p>Address The Secretary The Australia-Britain Society. PO Box 3044 Yokine 6060</p> <p>Bank National Australia Bank</p> <p>BSB: 086 138</p> <p>Account number: 39-192-8075</p> <p>Cheques: Australia Britain Society (WA Branch) Inc</p> <p>Further information: Olivia Fuderer WA PESA Coordinator ofuderer@gmail.com</p> <p> Clare Gray Australia-Britain PESA Coordinator claregray99@yahoo.com.au</p>			

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FORM B STUDENT INFORMATION FORM

Please fill in carefully. This information sheet will be used in the preparation of questions for a brief interview in the STATE FINAL and the NATIONAL FINAL competitions.

Student name:	Age:
School:	Year Level:
Title of speech:	
Subjects studied at school:	
Major awards or achievements:	
Interests:	
Short term ambition:	
Long term ambition:	
Special achievements:	
<p><i>If required, attach additional pages.</i></p> <p>Email this form to the WA Coordinator for PESA at <u>ofuderer@gmail.com</u></p> <p><i>A copy of your speech must be emailed before the semi- final.</i></p>	

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FORM C STUDENT WAIVER FORM

The Australia-Britain Society Western Australia

Honorary Secretary
PO Box 3044
Yokine
Western Australia 6060

Permission to use Photographs, Video Footage and Print Transcript of Speech
Subject: Plain English Speaking Award
Location: Perth Western Australia

I grant the representatives of the Australia-Britain Society Western Australia, the Australia-Britain Society Foundation NSW and the Plain English Speaking Award National Council NSW, the right to print a transcript of my speech and take photographs and video footage of me in connection with the above identified subject –
The Plain English Speaking Award.

I authorise the above mentioned organisations, and its representatives to copyright, use and publish the same in print and/or electronically.

I agree that the Australia-Britain Society Western Australia, the Australia-Britain Society Foundation NSW and the Plain English Speaking Award National Council NSW and their representatives may use such copies of my written speech, photographs and video footage of me with or without my name and for any lawful purpose such as publicity, advertising, or Web content in the promotion of the Plain English Speaking Award.

I have read and understand the above:

Student name:

Name of school:

Contact number and email:

Student Signature:

Signature, parent or guardian (if under 18):

Date:

WA Coordinator Plain English Speaking Award: Olivia Fuderer


Signature:

Date:

THE 2023 PLAIN ENGLISH SPEAKING AWARD (PESA) FORM D SCHOOLS' INVOICE

Your school Accounts Department will require a copy of this form.

Please forward a copy at the time of registration to Olivia Fuderer ofuderer@gmail.com

 <p>AUSTRALIA-BRITAIN SOCIETY (W.A. BRANCH) INC</p>		<h1 style="margin: 0;">INVOICE</h1>
To: The Secretary Australia Britain Society (WA Branch) PO Box 3044 YOKINE WA 6060	ABN: 50 511 297 294 Date:	
School Details		
Attention:		
Name of School:		
Street Name:		
Suburb:		
Postcode:		
Description		Amount
Registration Fee for the Australia Britain Plain English Speaking Award (PESA)		
1 student @ \$20		\$20.00
2 students @\$20 each <i>Highlight the number of students participating from your school</i>		\$40.00
BALANCE:		<i>Please fill in correct amount</i>
If paying by cheque send to:		If paying by electronic transfer:
The Secretary The Australia-Britain Society (WA Branch) PO Box 3044 YOKINE 6060		<u>National Australia Bank</u> BSB: 086 138 Account Number: 39-192-8075