

The Plain English Speaking Award

A Public Speaking Competition for Year 11 and 12 Students

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The Plain English Speaking Award

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 which is hosted by each state or territory in rotation. Each state winner and runner-up receives 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 winner of the national final 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 organized 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 recognized 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 recognizes 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 under the age of 18 years as at 1st September 2018. The students must be Australian citizens. Teachers must organize classroom heats to select the best student presentation. The selected student 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 in Darwin in 2018.

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 organization; 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

**Patron: Her Excellency the Honourable
Kerry Sanderson AC
Governor of Western Australia**

**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 both 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 as well as 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 organized 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.

The Plain English Speaking Award

A Public Speaking Competition for Year 11 and 12 Students

Dear classroom teacher

You are invited to organize a public speaking competition for senior school students in 2018. The aim of the PESA Program is *"to promote and develop the widespread use of plain spoken English in Australian schools."*

AIM OF THE AWARD

"The Plain English Speaking Award recognizes 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."

The classroom teacher conduct heats in the classroom from February to April 2018 according to the teacher's plan. Student classroom registrations close **Monday 9th April 2018**.

The teacher sends the details (Forms) of the 2 students who will represent the school to the Australia –Britain Society WA by **Monday 7th May 2018**. The state semi- finals and the state final will be conducted in Perth in June and July 2018 under the auspice of the WA State PESA Project Coordinator. The PESA national final will be held from the **11th to 14th August 2018** in Darwin.

The Competition is in 4 Stages:

Classroom heats	February – April 2018 <i>at the discretion of the teacher's classroom plan</i>	
Semi-finals	Saturday 9th June 2018 Saturday 16th June <i>(if needed)</i>	The competition will be held at: The Victoria League Rooms 276 Onslow Rd Shenton Park WA 6008
State final	Saturday 21st July 2018	

The State PESA Coordinator WA will advise all participants in May of the dates and times of the semi-finals and state final.

The National Final will be held in Darwin from Saturday 11th to Tuesday 14th August 2018

The student must present the same speech in the classroom, the semi-final, state final and national final competitions.

- An eight minute prepared speech. 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 for preparation. The impromptu speech cannot be read from notes but they may be used as a prompt.
- A three minute interview conducted only at the state final and national final.

The successful classroom students (2) from each school 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 winner of the state final will represent their state and school at the national final in Darwin. The winner of the national final will represent Australia in the International Plain Speaking Competition conducted in London UK.

All students who participate in the semifinals and state final receive a Certificate for their resume.

State winners receive the following prizes sponsored by the Australia-Britain Society Foundation:

- A cash prize of \$250
- The right to display the state PESA Shield at their school for one year.
- Travel and accommodation expenses to enable them to compete in the national final in Darwin. The WA State PESA Coordinator is also funded to accompany the state winner to Darwin.
- The winner of the national final receives \$5,000 to enable them to compete in the international Plain English Speaking Award in London UK.
- The runner-up receives a cash prize of \$150 at the state and national level.

The Plain English Speaking Award

ENTRY CONDITIONS

1. Contestants must be Australian citizens or permanent residents of Western Australia.
2. The competition is open to secondary school students between the ages of 15 and 18 years as at 1st September 2018.
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 decision of the adjudicators 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. The Student Registration Form must be completed and returned to the Australia-Britain PESA Coordinator by Monday 9th April 2018.
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 take part 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 ever mindful that their speeches may be printed, published, recorded or distributed and as a result are subject to the Australian laws of defamation, slander, libel, and plagiarism.
15. Students must sign a photograph waiver as photographs may be taken at state and national competitions.

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FORM A STUDENT REGISTRATION FORM

The closing date for classroom registration is Monday 9th April 2018

Name		
DOB		Age
School		Year Level
Home address		
Student mobile		
Student email		
Teacher name		
Teacher mobile		
Teacher email		
Topic of eight minute prepared speech		

STUDENT SELECTED TO REPRESENT THE SCHOOL		Yes	No
<p>If this student is selected to represent the school in the WA State PESA Semi Final please complete the 3 forms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Student Registration Form b) Student Information Form c) Semi-Final Registration Form <p>Send forms and the \$20 semi-final registration fee to the address below by Monday 7th May 2018 A \$20 registration fee is paid only by the students selected for the semi-final.</p> <p>Address: The ABS Coordinator PESA. The Australia-Britain Society. PO Box 3044 Yokine 6060</p> <p>BSB: 086 138</p> <p>Account number: 3929 28075</p> <p>Cheques: Australia Britain Society (WA Branch) Inc</p> <p>Further information: Clare Gray Australia-Britain PESA Coordinator claregray99@yahoo.com.au Margaret Crommy WA State Coordinator PESA solomonst68@icloud.com</p>			

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FORM B STUDENT INFORMATION FORM

To be completed by students who have qualified to participate in the semi- finals.

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

Student name	Age
School	Year
Title of speech	
Subjects studied at school	
Major awards or achievements	
Interests	
Short term ambition	
Long term ambition	
Special achievements	
<i>If you run out of space feel free to attach an additional page. Please include a copy of your speech when returning this form.</i>	



ALL CLASSROOM STUDENT REGISTRATIONS

All registrations to be recorded by the classroom teacher by Monday 9th April 2018

Name of School	Teacher's Name
	Email Address

[illegible]

Only 2 students can be selected to qualify for the Semi Finals to be held at the Victoria League Rooms Shenton Park on Saturday 9th June 2018.

Once selected, mail these 3 forms by **Monday 7th May 2018:**
Include **\$20 Semi-Final Registration** fee for each student selected to represent your school.

Form A Student Registration Form

Form B Student Information Form

Form C Semi-Final Registration Form

Include **\$20 Semi-Final Registration** fee for each student selected to represent your school.

The ABS PESA Coordinator
The Australia-Britain Society WA
PO Box 3044 YOKINE WA 6060

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FORM C SEMI-FINAL REGISTRATION FORM

The closing date for registration is Monday 7th May 2018

Send this form to the Australia-Britain PESA Coordinator, Australia-Britain Society, PO Box 2044 YOKINE WA 6060 together with a copy of:

a) Student Registration Form **b)** Student Information Form **c)** Semi-Final Registration Form and the \$20 Semi-Final Registration Fee.

DATES: **SEMI-FINAL 1** **9th June 2018** **STATE FINAL** **21st July 2018**
 SEMI FINAL 2 **16th June 2018** (only if necessary) **VENUE** The Victoria League Rooms, 276 Onslow Road Shenton Park

Name of School	School Contact	Email Address

Student Name	Title of Speech	Student Contact Number	Teacher's Name	Teacher's Contact Number	Date & Time of Semi-final

Teachers and students will be advised of the date and time of their Sem-Final by the WA State Coordinator PESA.

The winner of the WA State Final will participate in the National Final in Darwin from Saturday 11th to Tuesday 14th August 2018

PESA SEMI-FINAL AND FINAL ADJUDICATION MARKSHEET

Student	Number	
School	Adjudicator	
Topic of prepared speech		
Criteria	SECTION A Prepared Speech	SECTION B Impromptu Speech
The dot points below are not intended to be marked individually	8 minutes with a warning bell at 6 minutes	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 /50	Impromptu Speech Score /40
Criteria	SECTION C Interview	General Comments
	3 minutes	
<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 /10	Total Score /100