



## The New Zealand Society of Authors (PEN NZ Inc.) CompleteMS Programme 2017

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR THE 2017 COMPLETEMS PROGRAMME ON 3 MARCH.

The NZSA CompleteMS Programme is for writers who have progressed a specific piece of work to an advanced stage (i.e. have taken a completed manuscript through a number of drafts) and require the objective view of an experienced assessor. The programme is open to all writers, particularly those working in a new genre.

The successful applicants will have their manuscripts read and will receive a detailed report on its strengths and weaknesses and suggestions for improvement. The assessor may also suggest suitable publishers who might consider the applicant's work.

The assessment also includes an optional 1 to 2hr Q & A with the assessor (either in person or via phone or Skype).

An assessment can assist an author to improve the quality of their work. While publishers may favourably consider manuscripts which have been revised after an assessment, there is no guarantee of publication. This ultimately depends on the publishers' list, what else is being published in your genre and a number of other factors which impact on the literary or commercial viability of a book.

The selection panel will choose the successful applicants who will be matched with an assessor who specialises in the genre of the manuscript submitted. It is expected that the applicant's manuscript will be of a standard that reflects the more advanced skill level of the writer.

There are 13 assessments available for 2017 comprising:

- 12 open assessments
- 1 assessment dedicated to mid-career writers

Each assessment is, on average, worth \$690 + to the recipient.

**THE APPLICATION DEADLINE IS: 26 MAY 2017.**

Successful applicants will be notified by 1 July and will be asked to send their complete manuscript to National Office by **14 July** - applicants must be prepared to send in their manuscript promptly or their place may be forfeited.

The decision of the selection panel is final and it is unable to provide feedback on unsuccessful applications. If any applicant contacts a member of the selection panel with regards this programme their application will not be admissible.

## CRITERIA:

- This programme is open to financial members of the NZSA (PEN NZ Inc).
- All fiction (including plays) and non-fiction will be considered (excluding screenplays, picture books).
- Please note that the maximum length is **100,000 words** – word count must appear on the MS. We cannot accept applications for any manuscript that is longer than 100,000 words.
- Incorrect word counts will result in disqualification.

THE SELECTION PANEL WILL BE LOOKING FOR APPLICANTS WHO:

- Have progressed their work to a more complete stage but require the objective view of an experienced assessor to provide constructive critiquing of a specific piece of work.
- Have attained a standard that reflects a more advanced skill level than applicants for the Mentor Programme.
- Require only one or, at most, two assessments to bring their work to a publishable standard.
- Demonstrate a commitment to excellence.
- It is expected that the selection panel will endeavour to select a balance of work from each genre group, but not to the point of selecting non qualifying work to make up the numbers.

FOR AN APPLICATION FORM PLEASE VISIT [authors.org.nz](http://authors.org.nz) OR EMAIL [OFFICE@NZAUTHORS.ORG.NZ](mailto:OFFICE@NZAUTHORS.ORG.NZ)

THIS PROGRAMME IS MADE POSSIBLE THANKS TO FUNDING FROM CREATIVE NEW ZEALAND



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