



THE NEW ZEALAND  
SOCIETY OF AUTHORS  
(PEN NEW ZEALAND INC) TE PUNI KAITIHI O AOTEAROA

## **Manuscript Assessments and Assessors**

In today's highly competitive publishing market, it is a good idea to have your manuscript professionally assessed before sending it out to a publisher. This gives a writer the opportunity to redraft their manuscript to a higher level than they might have done alone.

We recommend you get 2 or 3 quotes from assessors who work in the genre of your manuscript. You should get the price confirmed in writing beforehand – most assessors charge according to word-count. You could be asked to pay all or part of that fee before the assessment is begun.

Here are a few points which you could ask a potential assessor:

- How long will you take to assess my manuscript?
- What will you look at in the manuscript?
- How much will it cost?
- What will I get for my money (eg 10 page written report)

Some things which assessors should consider:

- The strengths and weaknesses of the manuscript - both overall, and in specific detail, preferably offering examples on points raised.
- Technical aspects which might include characterisation, writing style, structure, dialogue, narrative momentum and editing.

Please bear in mind that each assessor will have their own way of approaching a manuscript, and they may not pick up all of a manuscript's potential problems.

If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact our National Office on (09) 379 4801.