

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Writing NSW launches new programs for culturally diverse writers, curators and editors**

Writing NSW is launching a range of new programs designed to increase cultural diversity in writing and publishing, with funding from Create NSW.

The funding will support a mentoring program for emerging writers, as well as a program of paid internships in publishing houses, and a development program for emerging curators of writing events to collaborate on this year's Boundless Festival.

People from culturally diverse or Indigenous backgrounds are invited to apply for the programs.

The writers' program will see up to six emerging writers work on a short piece of fiction or non-fiction under the guidance of award-winning author Roanna Gonsalves and with support from Writing NSW. The aim of the program is to see the finished works published on the Writing NSW website or other leading journals or platforms.

Successful applicants will receive a prize of \$1000, mentoring, feedback and advice on publication from Roanna Gonsalves, as well as membership and development opportunities from Writing NSW.

The development program for emerging curators is open to people who have a demonstrated engagement with writing and an ambition to program literary events. It is designed to give three curators the experience of programming sessions for the Boundless Festival under the guidance of Sisonke Msimang, curator of the literature and ideas program at Perth Festival, and with support from Writing NSW. The Boundless Festival was established by Writing NSW in 2017 to create a platform for culturally diverse and Indigenous writers.

Successful applicants to the curator program will receive a \$1500 fee, the opportunity to program sessions for the 2021 Boundless Festival, mentoring and programming guidance from Sisonke Msimang, and membership from Writing NSW.

Applications are currently open for both [writer](#) and [curator](#) programs. Applications for the editor internship program will open on a date to be announced.

For more information about the diversity initiatives visit our [website](#). For media enquiries contact Martyn Reyes [mreyes@writingnsw.org.au](mailto:mreyes@writingnsw.org.au)





**Sisonke Msimang** is the author of *Always Another Country: A memoir of exile and home* and *The Resurrection of Winnie Mandela: A biography of survival*. She is a South African writer whose work is focused on race, gender and democracy. She has written for a range of international publications including *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Guardian*, *Newsweek* and *Al Jazeera*. Sisonke is the curator of the literature and ideas program at Perth Festival.



**Roanna Gonsalves** is the author of *The Permanent Resident* (UWAP) published in India and South Asia as *Sunita De Souza Goes To Sydney* (Speaking Tiger). The book won the NSW Premier's Literary Award Multicultural Prize 2018 and was longlisted for the Dobbie Literary Award 2018. Her writing has been compared to the work of Alice Munro and Jhumpa Lahiri. Her four-part radio series *On the tip of a billion tongues*, commissioned and broadcast by ABC RN's *Earshot* program, is a portrayal of contemporary India through its multilingual writers.

Roanna holds a PHD and has been teaching and supervising creative writing students of all ages within communities as well as at schools and at New York University Sydney, UNSW, Western Sydney University and Macquarie University. She is a recipient of the Prime Minister's Australia Asia Endeavour Award and is co-founder and co-editor of *Southern Crossings*. She has been an invited keynote speaker and panellist at numerous literary events. She is a recipient of The Bridge Awards' inaugural Varuna – Cove Park Writing Residency 2019 in Scotland, and was part of the Australia Council for the Arts' India Literature Exploratory delegation 2020.

