



SYDNEY
WRITERS
FESTIVAL

Sydney Writers' Festival and
the NSW Education Standards Authority present

Student Sessions

Wednesday 28 April, 10am–2:15pm

STUDENT SESSIONS

Join some of Australia's brightest minds for a thought-provoking program of talks, specially curated to complement the school curriculum in ways that educate and enlighten.

From introducing students to a fascinating world of ideas to giving them an edge in the HSC, Student Sessions is a unique opportunity to learn from Australia's best writers and thinkers that we are thrilled to offer free of charge.

We'd like to invite NSW government schools with an ICSEA value of under 1000 to apply for free student and teacher tickets through our Student Sessions Access Program.

The program covers a range of topics linked to the NSW school curriculum for Years 9 to 12 but is suitable for all secondary students.

BOOKING

Each talk runs for 45 minutes and all sessions are stand-alone. You can book one, two or three sessions to make a day of it. We recommend students bring their own lunch.

- Paul Kelly on Poetry
- To the Point: Short Stories
- Let Me Persuade You

To book, please use the [online booking form](#).

Bookings close on 20 April but please note that places are limited, so we recommend applying as soon possible.

THE PROGRAM

Each talk runs
for 45 minutes.



10am

Paul Kelly on Poetry

In a session that explores the transformative combination of poetry and music, hear acclaimed singer-songwriter **Paul Kelly** recite a selection of poems from his anthology *Love is Strong as Death* – a number of which he has set to music and will sing live. In conversation with ABC Radio National's **Kate Evans**, Paul discusses a collection that spans the ancient and the modern and speaks to two of literature's greatest themes: love and death – plus everything in between.

Curriculum links: English, Music



11.45am

To the Point: Short Stories

Short stories conjure up entire worlds of fully formed characters in the space of just a few pages. Accomplished writers of the form, **Tony Birch** and **Adam Thompson** join critic **Declan Fry** to reflect on this singular power, and how it can be used to explore questions of identity, Country and belonging in contemporary Australia. Tony Birch is the celebrated author of four short-story collections, including *Shadowboxing* and *Father's Day*. Adam Thompson, an award-winning Aboriginal (Pakana) writer from Tasmania, had his debut short-story collection, *Born Into This*, published in February 2021.

Curriculum links: English, Society and Culture, Aboriginal Studies



1.30pm

Let Me Persuade You

How can we wield the written and spoken word to convince, cajole and convert an audience? Or detect when we're being linguistically manoeuvred ourselves? Two masters of persuasion, former Prime Ministerial speech writer **Don Watson** and *Sydney Morning Herald* journalist **Jacqueline Maley**, take students through a crash course on identifying and analysing the distinct language of persuasion and how it relates to our current media landscape.

Curriculum links: English, Society and Culture

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