
NATIONAL PRESS CLUB OF AUSTRALIA

Federal Parliamentary Press Gallery
Journalist of the Year Award

Submission Information 2026

Awards submissions are to be lodged before
11:59pm on Monday 15th June 2026



OVERVIEW

This prestigious award aims to celebrate excellence in journalism by members of the Federal Parliamentary Press Gallery.

The winner will receive \$5000 and have his or her name inscribed on the honour board permanently displayed at the National Press Club of Australia.

The award for Press Gallery Journalist of the Year* is unique as it is restricted to members of the Federal Parliamentary Press Gallery only.

* Formerly known as the Paul Lyneham Award.

The Award is proudly supported by Westpac.

OBJECTIVES

To reward excellence in journalism for members of the Federal Parliamentary Press Gallery.

ELIGIBILITY AND GUIDELINES

The award is open to all Press Gallery journalists who have held a Press Gallery pass to Parliament House in the past 12 months.

Entries will only be accepted for work published or broadcast between **1 July 2025 and 15 June 2026**.

Submitted work must be the original work of the applicant.

Entries can be lodged by either the applicant or another Press Gallery member with the consent of the journalist being nominated.

Joint applications will be accepted. In the case of joint and or equal winners, prize money will be shared.

The annual award is for a single story or a body of work, including opinion pieces, showcasing high quality, original journalism. Entries covering federal public policy and national politics are encouraged; however other topical issues are welcome.

PLEASE NOTE: Applicants may submit up to six pieces of journalism. If the applicant submits more than six pieces, judges will only consider the first six pieces.

Entries can be submitted in any medium and should be accompanied by a brief written statement backgrounding the submission and a current CV of the applicant.

Applicants are required to disclose if their entry or related journalism is or has been subject to any form of litigation such as claims for defamation or libel etc.

In any event, applicants will indemnify the National Press Club, its judges, and corporate partners from any claim for damages and other financial settlements awarded by a court.

Award submissions are to be lodged by 11:59pm Monday 15 June 2026

Applications must be submitted at www.npc.org.au under the 2026 Federal Parliamentary Press Gallery Journalist of the Year Award Website Submission Form.

VERY IMPORTANT: All applicants will receive an email confirmation that their submission has been received. Any applicant who does not receive the confirmation should contact Ruben Roussidis coordinator@npc.org.au at the National Press Club.

JUDGING GUIDELINES

The Award recognises insightful analysis and coverage of national affairs and politics or news breaking that changes the course of the political or policy debate.

It recognises outstanding journalism that informs readers/listeners/viewers or provides unique perspectives into contemporary issues.

The winner should display the highest standards of journalism with respect to:

- Impartiality, independence and accuracy
- The cultivation and defence of the public right to information about national politics and policy issues
- The display of wit and perceptiveness, particularly in analysis of the economic, social or political implications of contemporary issues

PRESENTATION

The award will be presented at the Midwinter Ball on Wednesday 1 July 2026 at Parliament House, Canberra.

Westpac are supporting the award for Press Gallery Journalist of the Year and are independent of the award's administration and judging.

PREVIOUS WINNERS

2002	<i>Matt Price</i>	<i>The Australian</i>
2003	<i>Tony Walker</i>	<i>Australian Financial Review</i>
2004	<i>Laura Tingle</i>	<i>Australian Financial Review</i>
2005	<i>Paul Daley</i>	<i>The Bulletin</i>
2006	<i>Mark Riley</i>	<i>Network Seven</i>
2007	<i>Lenore Taylor</i>	<i>Australian Financial Review</i>
2008	<i>Katharine Murphy</i>	<i>The Age</i>
2009	<i>Lyndal Curtis</i>	<i>ABC Radio current Affairs</i>
2010	<i>Nicola Berkovic</i>	<i>The Australian</i>
2011	<i>Matt Moran</i>	<i>Network Ten</i>
2012	<i>Phillip Coorey</i>	<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i>
2013	<i>Phillip Coorey</i>	<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i>
2014	<i>Lenore Taylor</i>	<i>Guardian Australia</i>
2015	<i>Nick Butterly & Andrew Probyn</i>	<i>The West Australian</i>
2016	<i>Andrew Probyn</i>	<i>The West Australian</i>
2017	<i>Annika Smethurst</i>	<i>News Corporation</i>

2018 Alex Ellinghausen

Fairfax Media

**2019 David Speers
Sharri Markson**

**Sky News
The Daily Telegraph**

2020 Katharine Murphy

Guardian Australia

2021 Samantha Maiden

News Corporation

2022 Karen Middleton

The Saturday Paper

2023 David Crowe

**Sydney Morning Herald
& The Age**

2024 Andrew Probyn

Nine Network

2025 Paul Sakkal

**Sydney Morning Herald
& The Age**