



RNLD Youth Language Award Guidelines

The Resource Network for Linguistic Diversity is offering an annual award in recognition of young Indigenous people's achievements in sustaining Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.

1. Introduction

According to the National Indigenous Languages Survey (2005), 75% of Australia's Indigenous languages are critically endangered. A language is integral to both culture and identity, and it is imperative that Australia's languages be revitalised before they become silent. The Resource Network for Linguistic Diversity is committed to advancing the sustainability of Indigenous languages and aims to increase the participation of Indigenous peoples in language documentation and revitalisation through training, resource sharing, networking and advocacy.

One of the key aspects to reviving a language is to ensure it is passed on to children. Around Australia, young Indigenous people are working on projects to learn or revitalise languages. The Resource Network for Linguistic Diversity has introduced this award to recognise the efforts that go into these programs, and the innovation that has been shown in coming up with new ways of getting young people involved.

2. Award information

The objectives of the RNLD Youth Language Award are:

1. to celebrate the variety of language projects which young Indigenous people are creating and/or participating in, in order to strengthen and support their languages.
2. to encourage greater participation in Indigenous language activities by young people.
3. to bring wider public attention to Indigenous language issues.

Prizes will be awarded in each category to the project that best demonstrates a commitment to strengthening and supporting Indigenous languages, and encourages youth participation.

Projects will be judged on creativity, effectiveness and relevance to the community.

Creativity

The RNLD Youth Language Award aims to foster creativity in strengthening an Indigenous language. Language projects can take a long time and require a lot of determination and persistence. By creating innovative and fun ways to strengthen or learn a language, children are more likely to maintain interest and enthusiasm for the project. Creativity might include the use of technology (e.g. digital audio or video, mobile phone, social media), a new language game, or a new method to teach a language.

Effectiveness

The project must demonstrate effectiveness in strengthening an Indigenous language. Submissions should describe how young people have effectively encouraged children or youth to engage with their language and increased their participation in language activities.

Relevance to community

Projects should also help to increase public appreciation of Indigenous languages and bring wider attention to language issues. By creating projects that others in the community are aware of or are included in, the language can be celebrated, and the need for further language learning can be highlighted.

Submissions should address these three main criteria, as well as the objectives of the award.

3. Eligibility information

Entries must meet the following requirements.

- Entrants must be of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent
- Entrants must be 25 years or younger
- Project must support the revitalization of an Australian Indigenous language

Categories:

- 12 years and under
- 13-18 years
- 19-25 years

4. Prizes awarded in each category

1st prize: Zoom Q3HD Video Recorder (including accessory pack)

The Zoom Q3HD Video Recorder is a pocket-sized video camera, which can also be used as an audio recorder. Easy to use, it has a choice of recording formats including high definition, and is a useful piece of equipment for language projects. The accessory pack includes a case, 2GB SD card, windscreen, adaptor, AV cable and microphone clip adaptor.

2nd prize: Zoom H1 Audio Recorder (including accessory pack)

The Zoom H1 Audio Recorder is a popular digital audio recorder that can also be used as an external microphone if necessary. It is an excellent tool for language projects such as podcasts and recording community members. The accessory pack includes a tripod, windscreen, case, charger and USB cord.

3rd prize: Jackal Recordable Reader (including accessory pack)

The Jackal Recordable Reader is a fascinating new technology that allows users to record words or sounds and then place that recording on a Playback sticker which can be placed in a language resource. It can be used for talking picture books, speaking dictionaries, posters, photos and more. The recorder comes with two sticker sheets, 1GB mini SD card, batteries and an instruction sheet.

5. Application information

Submissions must include the following sections:

Cover page: PDF can be downloaded at <www.rnld.org/award>

Who: A brief explanation of who the group or individual is, where they are from and how they came to be involved. Please include the ages of the participant(s) and the language(s) involved in the project.

What: A brief explanation (up to two pages) of the project, including how it was started, its purpose, what it involves, and how it is beneficial to the strengthening of Indigenous languages. It should address the criteria mentioned above: creativity, effectiveness and relevance to the community.

Evidence: Include some evidence of the activity, such as a short video, photos, audio recording, link to a website or copies of some materials.

Submission deadline

Submissions close 5pm Friday 30th August 2013.

Award announcements

Winners will be announced in late September. Prizes will be sent out by mail.