



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Education and Cultural Diversity for Empowered and Sustainable Futures for All

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CIRCULAR NO. 59/23

From: The Permanent Secretary for Education

To: Heads of Schools, Divisional and District Officers

Date: 08 August 2023

Subject: National Essay Writing Competition for Secondary Schools -2023

This circular serves to inform all Heads of Schools, Heads of Department of Languages and respective English teachers of the New Zealand Essay Writing Competition for 2023.

- 1.0 The New Zealand High Commission in conjunction with the Fiji Association Incorporated will be conducting an essay competition for Fiji Secondary Schools again this year.
- 2.0 Heads of Schools are requested to bring the above to the attention of their respective teachers, Heads of Department of Languages and Years 11 to 13 students.
- 3.0 Participating details for this essay competition are attached in **Annex 1**.

Any further queries regarding the above can be directed to Ms Monika Mala (Policy Advisor) on email: Monika.Mala@mfat.govt.nz or call 3311422 ext 103.

Thank you for your support towards learning and teaching.

Sincerely

Ms. Selina Kuruleca
Permanent Secretary

ANNEX 1

NEW ZEALAND HIGH COMMISSION ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION 2023

INTRODUCTION

With support from the Fiji Ministry of Education, the New Zealand High Commission offers a writing competition to senior secondary school students in conjunction with the Fiji Association in Auckland Inc. This is the 16th consecutive year the competition has been offered.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE?

Students in Years 11 to 13, currently at any registered Fiji secondary school, may send an entry certified by the principal or head of department, submitted by the school. Please note the closing date carefully. Entries sent directly by students will not be accepted. Joint or group entries will be disallowed. One entry per student will be accepted. Coordinating teachers are encouraged to email entries where possible or send them to the High Commission's postal or physical address, together with the certifying form.

POINTS TO REMEMBER

Students are encouraged to present their own views, based on research that should be clearly acknowledged. Do not just copy and paste. Your essay should be written in the English language. Use one side of the paper and write your name on each page. It is important to write your full name, as this is how names will appear on Certificates. Your essay may be typed on a computer or hand written. Pictures and illustrations should not be used. The essay should not exceed 1200 words. Please indicate the word count clearly.

TOPIC FOR 2023

"Regional Customs can serve us well. Common aspirations and goals can be used to tackle problems faced by our regional community."

Using this statement, write an essay highlighting any ONE issue faced in the Pacific Region where regional partners are tackling or can tackle the issue in partnership, for the betterment of everyone. Examples of major issues could include Climate Education, Resource Management, Regional Security, Regional Trade, Digital Development, Education, Migration and Health.

Remember to select ONE major issue only.

JUDGES

Lady June Hillary, QSM and Dr Satendra Singh, ONZM, QSM, OF, PBSA, of Auckland, will judge the competition. Lady Hillary and the late Sir Edmund Hillary had been closely connected with Fiji over several decades. Dr Singh was a member of the foundation Department of Foreign Affairs of Fiji following independence.

The Judges' decisions will be final.

PRIZES

20 Winners And Prizes

Certificate Of Commendation (Supreme Winners):

Two Students Will Be Selected For This Award. Each Will Receive F\$500, A Laptop And Trophy.

Certificate Of Excellence:

Three Students Will Each Receive This Award And F\$500.

Certificate Of Merit:

Ten Students Will Each Receive This Award And F\$300.

Certificate Of Honorable Mention:

Five Students Will Each Receive F\$200.

All participating students will be sent a Certificate of Appreciation. The supreme winners' schools will be presented with special plaques.

Entries cannot be returned. Winning essays may be reproduced in part or full in newspaper or journal articles related to the competition. In such cases, winners and schools will be duly acknowledged.

Closing Date For Entries

All entries must be received by close of play **on Thursday 14 September 2023**. Please send entries to [Monika.Mala@mfat.govt.nz] (preferred), or to: New Zealand High Commission, Reserve Bank of Fiji Building, Pratt Street, Suva, Fiji.

Prizes And Prize Giving Arrangements

Further details on prizes and prize giving arrangements, including possible school visits from the judges, will be communicated via schools in due course.

For further information, please contact [Monika Mala at the New Zealand High Commission, Monika.Mala@mfat.govt.nz Ph. 7790805)

Form To Be Submitted By Schools With Entries

NAME OF SCHOOL:

EMAIL OF COORDINATING

TEACHER/HOD: Telephone Contact:

NAME OF STUDENT

YEAR11/12/13

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9

Signature of Principal/HOD:

Stamp

Date: _____