



ANDREW HASTIE MP

Federal Member for Canning

PRESENTS THE 2026

CANNING SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION



COMPETITION BRIEF

1. INTRODUCTION

All students living or enrolled in high school in the Canning electorate are invited to participate in Andrew Hastie's annual Canning Shakespeare Competition.

The purpose of the competition is to encourage students to explore the work of our most influential poet and playwright.

1.1 Competition Aim

The competition aims to provide students in the Canning electorate with an opportunity to practice their theatrical skills live on-stage, and receive feedback from local professionals in performing arts.

2. ENTRY CRITERIA, GUIDELINES AND SELECTION PROCESS

The competition is open to all grade 10-12 students living in or enrolled in a high school in the Canning electorate.

Students will be required to submit a video of up to 2.5 minutes of a monologue performance taken from one of Shakespeare's plays.

The monologue is to be performed in character. This is an acting competition, so students should consider the dramatic situation that the character is in: Why the character is speaking, who they are speaking to, and what do they want? The student should convey the inner life of the character and the action of the scene through the use of voice and body.

Round 1 - Video submission

Video submissions must be submitted along with an application form by **5pm Friday 14th of August**, either via email to andrew.hastie.mp@aph.gov.au or by hard copy (USB) to:

Canning Shakespeare Competition
Office of Andrew Hastie MP
2/61 Sutton Street
Mandurah WA 6210

In the video submission, prior to performing the monologue, participants must recite their name, age, and why they chose the particular Shakespeare piece.

The top ten submissions will be selected to compete live onstage before a panel of judges.

Round 2 - Final Competition

The ten finalists will be notified in writing and will be required to perform the same monologue live on **Saturday 29th of August**, in front of a panel of judges at the Mandurah Performing Arts Centre.

Further information on the final competition will be provided to finalists in writing.

Participants wishing to enter must:

- 1) Be a year 10, 11 or 12 student studying or living in the Canning electorate.
- 2) Complete and submit the Canning Shakespeare Competition application form along with a photo of the participant and copy of their script by **5pm Friday 14th of August 2025**.
- 3) Finalists chosen must be available for the final competition.

2.1 Competition Rules

All participants must adhere to the following rules.

- 1) Each student must select, memorize and perform one monologue from a Shakespeare play.
- 2) Prior to performing the monologue, participants must recite their name, age, and a brief description of why they chose the particular Shakespeare piece. This is relevant for both Round 1 & 2 of the competition.
- 3) Length of monologue should be no more than 2.5 minutes. Students performing longer monologues will be disqualified.
NOTE: Editing of the piece (i.e. cutting of lines) is allowed, but the piece still needs to make logical sense and should be justified in their introduction.
- 4) Students **cannot** wear character costumes or use props of any kind (including chairs, jewelry, items of clothing and hair/hair clips). In order to keep the focus on the acting, students should wear neutral clothing (i.e. theatre blacks).
- 5) Students are expected to memorize their lines. If necessary, however, prompting is allowed. If students require prompting, they must say "Line."
- 6) **A photo of the participant and script of their performance must be provided to Andrew Hastie's office along with the application form by Friday 14th of August.**

2.2 Judging Criteria

Actors will be judged on their performance, based on the criteria listed below. All creative choices need to be based on a deep understanding of the story, the language and the situation the character is in. Actors are encouraged to read the play in its entirety and mine the text for clues about their character. They should understand what they are saying, who they are speaking to and why they are speaking. Finally, they should make bold and committed choices in their work.

The three criteria are:

- LANGUAGE: Understanding and use of Shakespeare's language.
- CHARACTERISATION: Verbal, physical and imaginative connection to the character in this situation.
- EXPRESSION & COMMUNICATION: confident, clear and effective volume, pace and expression.

3. PRIZE DETAILS

2026 Canning Shakespeare Competition prizes include:

First place: \$1,000

Runner up: \$500

Prize money will be awarded via bank transfer on the Monday following the competition. Bank details will be collected from the winners immediately following the competition.

For further information contact the office of Andrew Hastie:

(08) 9534 8044 or email andrew.hastie.mp@aph.gov.au

4. APPLICATION FORM

Name: _____ DOB: _____

Applicant's Address:

Applicant's school: _____

Applicant Phone Number: (08) _____ Mobile: _____

Email: _____

I confirm that if nominated as a finalist, I will participate in the final stage of the Canning Shakespeare Competition, and I confirm that I intend to cover any travel expenses to and from the competition location, and that I have my parent or guardian's consent to do so. My signature indicates my understanding and my voluntary participation in this competition.

Publicity, Use of Personal Information

By entering, all participants (and winners) grant Andrew Hastie MP and/or other authorized parties permission to use their names and/or images/likenesses (via photographs or video footage) in connection with promotion of the Competition, and waive any claims to royalty, right, or remuneration for such use. By participating in the Competition, selected participants (and winners) agree Andrew Hastie MP may disclose personal information obtained from them during the Competition to third parties and use such information for marketing and other purposes.

Applicant's name (please print):

Applicant's signature: _____ **Date:** _____

4.1 PARENT/GUARDIAN'S CONSENT

I understand that should _____ be selected as one of the Canning Shakespeare Competition finalist, he/she will travel to the Mandurah Performing Arts Centre to compete in the final round.

I hereby give authority for _____ to participate in the Canning Shakespeare Competition and make any necessary travel arrangements.

Parent's name (please print): _____

Parent's signature: _____ Date: _____

4.2 PLEASE ATTACH A PHOTO OF YOURSELF AND PROVIDE A SCRIPT OF YOUR PERFORMANCE