

Premier’s Spirit of Anzac Prize competition 2025

Student application guidelines

**We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Victoria and pay respects to their Elders past and present. We acknowledge that Aboriginal self-determination is a human right and recognise the hard work of many generations of Aboriginal people.**

To receive this document in another format, phone the email Spirit of Anzac Prize team soap@dffh.vic.gov.au.

Authorised and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne.

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ISBN 978-1-76130-762-1 (pdf/online/MS word)

Available at [Premier's Spirit of Anzac Prize](https://www.vic.gov.au/soap) https://www.vic.gov.au/soap

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# Message from the Minister for Veterans

Educating the future generations on Australia’s wartime history and honouring the sacrifice of those who came before us is an important part of the work that we do.

This year, we commemorate the 110th anniversary of the ANZAC landings at Gallipoli, Türkiye a defining moment in our nation's history that forged an enduring bond between Australia and Türkiye. For over a century, both nations have come together in remembrance, turning a story of conflict into one of deep respect and mutual understanding.

It is with great pride that I announce the launch of the 20th Premier’s Spirit of Anzac Prize. Over the past two decades, we have received over 4,000 applications, with more than 500 students awarded the opportunity to travel to significant wartime destinations.

This annual prize is open to students in years 9 to 12 and it aims to inspire a deeper understanding of the Anzac spirit in young Victorians. Twelve students will embark on a fully funded study tour to Türkiye, where they will walk in the footsteps of those who served, visiting historic war memorials and heritage sites that shaped our nation's identity.

This year, we are streamlining the application process to ensure it is more accessible than ever before, enabling an even greater number of young Victorians to apply.

To all those preparing to submit their applications, I encourage you to seize this incredible opportunity. Immerse yourself in the Anzac legacy, uncover the untold stories of our wartime and peacekeeping history, and help carry forward the memory of our veterans for generations to come.

Together, let’s honour their sacrifice and keep their legacy alive.

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**Hon. Natalie Suleyman MP**
Minister for Veterans

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# About the Premier’s Spirit of Anzac Prize

Thank you for your interest in the Premier’s Spirit of Anzac Prize.

The Premier’s Spirit of Anzac Prize is an annual competition open to Victorian school students enrolled in Years 9 to 12. The competition offers Victorian students the opportunity to:

* explore Australia’s wartime and peacekeeping history
* join a fully funded overseas study tour to significant war heritage sites
* connect with veterans and the ex-service community
* understand and remember the contribution of Victorian service people.

This year’s competition is open between 3 March and 28 April 2025.

Students may be selected to join a funded overseas study tour in 2025. We expect the study tour to take place, during the Victorian September school holidays. All dates are indicative and subject to change.

The Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, Office for Veterans runs the prize.

The Premier's Spirit of Anzac Prize began in 2005. Over 4,000 applications have been received, and more than 500 students have been awarded the Prize. Prize recipients and teachers have joined study tours exploring significant military and historical sites in:

* Türkiye
* Europe
* Southeast Asia
* Australia.

For more information visit:

* [Premier's Spirit of Anzac Prize](https://www.vic.gov.au/soap) https://www.vic.gov.au/soap, or
* [contact us](#_Contact_us).

# About the study tour

The Premier’s Spirit of Anzac Prize 2025 is awarded to 12 students.

These students will receive a fully funded 10-day overseas study tour, which includes:

* accommodation
* transport
* insurance
* activities
* meals.

The Department of Families, Fairness and Housing covers all costs of the study tour.

The study tours aim to connect young Victorians with the legend and spirit of Anzac, which symbolises the courage and sacrifice of Australian service people.

Study tour experiences also broaden students’ education and personal outlook.

On the study tour you will:

* deepen your understanding of Australian and world history
* learn from experts
* visit sites of historical and cultural significance
* meet a likeminded and diverse group of students from across Victoria
* immerse yourself in another country’s rich culture and history.
* form meaningful connections
* gain new perspectives
* build your independence, collaboration and leadership skills
* have fun
* make memories to last a lifetime.

# How to apply

You must submit your application online via the Grants Gateway portal.

To complete an application form, register or login to the [Grants Gateway](https://grantsgateway.dffh.vic.gov.au/) <https://grantsgateway.dffh.vic.gov.au/>.

## Key dates and timelines

Important information about entering the Premier’s Spirit of Anzac Prize competition

| Applications open | Submit application | Applications close |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 10:00 am 3 March 2025 | 3 March– 28 April 2025 | 5:00 pm 28 April 2025 |
| * Read the competition guidelines, available at [Premier's Spirit of Anzac Prize](https://www.vic.gov.au/premiers-spirit-anzac-prize). https://ww.vic.gov.au/premiers-spirit-anzac-prize.
* Access our [online resources](#_Access_online_research).
* Contact us if you have any questions.
* Email the Spirit of Anzac Prize soap@dffh.vic.gov.au.
 | * To complete an application, register or login to the online [Grants Gateway](https://grantsgateway.dffh.vic.gov.au/) https://grantsgateway.dffh.vic.gov.au.
* You can save your application as a draft. Write down your login details so you can resume your application.
* Make sure the 2 required forms are completed and signed:
	+ Parent Carer Declaration Consent and Copyright Permission Form
	+ School Representative Statement and Declaration Form.
* Finalise your application with all responses, upload required forms and submit the application by the due date and time.
* You will receive acknowledgement of submission via email.
* Note the application number for reference when contacting us about your application.
 | * Late or incomplete applications are not considered.
* Applications are assessed within 2 months of the closing date.
* You are notified about the outcome of your application.
 |

Please contact us before the application closing date and time if you are having problems:

* accessing the Grants Gateway portal, or
* uploading your application forms.

We will work with you to resolve any technical issues.

You can ask your teacher or school to help you submit your application through the Grants Gateway portal.

# Eligibility criteria

Students living in Victoria can apply who:

* are between 14 and 18 years of age
* are enrolled in Year 9, 10, 11 or 12, (or a home school student registered with the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority), at the time of application and at the time of travel
* have permission from their parent/carer to apply
* have not previously been awarded the Premier’s Spirit of Anzac Prize.

To be eligible to enter the competition, you must attach the following required forms to your application:

* **SOAP 2025 Parent/carer declaration consent form***,* completed and signed by your parent or carer
* **SOAP 2025 School representative statement and declaration form**, completed and signed by a representative from your school.

The Victorian Government embraces diversity and difference and actively encourages applications from:

* First Nations people
* people living with disability
* LGBTIQA+ people
* people from all parts of metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria
* people from varied cultural backgrounds and faiths.

# Application requirements

To enter the Premier’s Spirit of Anzac Prize competition, you must include with your application:

* responses to the [submission questions](#_Submission_questions)
* signed **SOAP 2025 Parent/carer declaration consent form** available at <https://www.vic.gov.au/spirit-anzac-prize-student-competition>
* signed **SOAP 2025 School representative statement and declaration form** (from your year level coordinator, head of house, or homeroom teacher) available at <https://www.vic.gov.au/spirit-anzac-prize-student-competition>

When we are reviewing applications, we may contact your nominated teacher representative to pose them additional questions regarding your interest in history, your ability to engage with others and your personal conduct. <https://www.vic.gov.au/spirit-anzac-prize-student-competition>

# Submission questions

Your submission will answer the 5 questions below.

Each response must be no more than **200 words**. Your total submission must not exceed 1,000 words.

1. **Who are you? Tell us about yourself.**

Consider reflecting on:

* your contributions to your school or broader community
* your interests, hobbies, extracurricular or team activities
* any connections to veterans in your family or community
* any experiences linked to a different cultural background.

Your response may include:

* volunteering
* mentoring
* scouts or girl guides
* caring responsibilities
* cadets
* community service
* other.
1. **How do you embody the Anzac values of endurance, courage, ingenuity, and mateship in your own life?**

Think about:

* what do these Anzac values mean to you?
* examples of how you reflect these values through your life actions or activities
* what inspires you about the Anzacs.
1. **The study tour will focus on the Gallipoli campaign in Türkiye during World War One, highlighting the service and sacrifice of Australian veterans. Can you share your interest in learning about this and how you would engage with the experience?**

Consider including:

* what history you are studying at school
* your knowledge of the Anzacs, the Gallipoli campaign and of Australia’s wartime and peacekeeping history.
* whether learning about the Gallipoli campaign is a personal passion.
1. **Explain what would it mean for you to be selected for the Premier’s Spirit of Anzac Prize study tour?**

Think about:

* what motivates you to apply for the prize
* how would you make the most of the study tour as a learning opportunity.
* what do you hope to gain or learn from this experience.
1. **How would you be an ambassador for the Premier’s Spirit of Anzac Prize?**

Consider reflecting on:

* how you would share your experience with your school and the broader community to ensure the Anzac legacy continues to inspire others
* how you would support the program to reach more students and a wider audience in the future.

# Submission tips

* Make sure you set up your Grant Gateway account well before applications close so we can help you if you have any issues.
* Leave enough time to prepare and submit your submission. We cannot extend the closing time/date if you encounter technical issues.
* Let us know if you are having technical issues with the online platform, so we can help you before the closing date.
* Draft your responses in Word or another program that you can save outside of the Grants Gateway system. This is so you can avoid your work being lost if you have any technical issues.
* Make sure you keep to the word limit – 200 words per question.
* Have a parent, carer or teacher read your responses to ensure you have clearly addressed each question.
* Once you have finished preparing your responses, copy and paste them into the relevant text boxes in the Grant Gateway system to submit.
* Make sure you have attached the required forms.

# Submission format and attachment requirements

Your responses to the questions must be entered into the relevant text boxes in the Grants Gateway system. **Do not upload your responses as an attachment.**

You must attach the [required forms](#_Application_requirements) when you make your submission in the Grants Gateway. Register or login to the [Grants Gateway](https://grantsgateway.dffh.vic.gov.au/) https://grantsgateway.dffh.vic.gov.au/.

Make sure your attachments are:

* a digital file no larger than 5MB
* labelled clearly and include your name, for example:
	+ Ashley Doe – SOAP 2025 Parent/carer declaration consent form
	+ Ashley Doe – SOAP 2025 School representative statement and declaration form

# How we assess applications

We will:

* first check for eligibility and that all the correct files and forms are attached
* then assess your submission against the *submission assessment criteria* in the table below.

## Submission assessment criteria

The total submission is scored out of 100. Each response is weighted differently, see the weighting under the score column.

You may receive extra points based on your personal background (see [Diversity and equity criteria](#_Diversity_and_equity)).

| Criterion  | Assessment criteria | Score |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. **Who are you? Tell us about yourself.**

Maximum of 200 words | Your response should show: * you are actively engaged in your school and community
* you demonstrate teamwork and good personal skills
* any personal connections to wartime or peacekeeping experiences.
 | **Score out of 10**The response aligns to the assessment criteria:* to a strong extent: 15 to 20
* to a reasonable extent: 12–15
* to a moderate extent: 8–11
* to a basic extent: 2–7.
 |
| 1. **How do you connect to the Anzac values of endurance, courage, ingenuity, and mateship in your own life?**

Maximum of 200 words | Your response should show: * understanding and alignment with the Anzac values
* proactive enactment of the values with relevant examples
 | **Score out of 30**The response aligns to the assessment criteria:* to a strong extent: 15–20
* to a reasonable extent: 12–15
* to a moderate extent: 8–11
* to a basic extent: 2–7.
 |
| 1. **Tell us about your interest in the Gallipoli campaign and Australian veterans**

Maximum of 200 words | Your response should show:* any school or personal studies related to Australian wartime and peacekeeping history
* a proactive approach to learning about Australian wartime and peacekeeping history.
 | **Score out of 30**The response aligns to the assessment criteria:* to a strong extent: 15–20
* to a reasonable extent: 12–15
* to a moderate extent: 8–11
* to a basic extent: 2–7.
 |
| 1. **What would it mean for you to be selected for the study tour?**

Maximum of 200 words | Your response should show:* the importance of this study tour to you
* what it would mean to travel to significant Gallipoli sites in Türkiye.
 | **Score out of 20**The response aligns to the assessment criteria:* to a strong extent: 15–20
* to a reasonable extent: 12–15
* to a moderate extent: 8–11

to a basic extent: 2–7. |
| 1. **How would you be an ambassador for the Premier’s Spirit of Anzac Prize?**

Maximum of 200 words | Your response should show* a proactive approach to promoting the Prize and sharing your experiences with your school, and wider community
* a clear plan on how the applicant would be a Prize ambassador.
 | **Score out of 10**The response aligns to the assessment criteria:* to a strong extent: 15–20
* to a reasonable extent: 12–15
* to a moderate extent: 8–11
* to a basic extent: 2–7.
 |

## Diversity and equity criteria (extra points)

All Victorian students must have equal access to educational opportunities like the Premier’s Spirit of Anzac Prize.

We recognise that students may face extra barriers to participating and succeeding in educational prizes due to their background, personal circumstances or location.

The Premier’s Spirit of Anzac Prize competition application includes diversity and equity criteria to raise participation outcomes within the following student groups in Victoria:

* students from low socio-economic areas
* students from families in financial need
* First Nations students
* students who live in rural, regional or remote areas.

## Other criteria

### Socio-economic equity criteria

* Applicants living in the most disadvantaged suburbs may receive up to 10 additional points. The points are scaled, so that applicants living in the most advantaged suburbs receive no additional points.
* We calculate the extra scoring by using the applicants’ street address to compare with the Australian Bureau of Statistics’ Social Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA). This ranks suburbs according to their relative socio-economic advantage and disadvantage using Census data.

or

* Applicants who identify as being in financial need on the application form may receive an additional 10 points, regardless of where they live.
* We define students being in financial need if:
	+ they have a parent/parents or carer/carers receiving a Centrelink income support payment
	+ are themselves receiving the Youth Allowance.
* Financial help is available on request for students who need support to attend the funded study tour. For example, to buy:
	+ a passport
	+ suitable clothing
	+ footwear
	+ luggage

### First Nations equity criterion

Applicants who are: First Nations, Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander may receive an additional 5 points.

# How we notify you about your application

All applicants will receive written notification of the outcome of their application approximately mid-year.

If you **are successful**, we will tell you about next steps for receiving your award and taking part in the study tour.

We may publish details about your submission on [Premier's Spirit of Anzac Prize](https://www.vic.gov.au/soap) https://www.vic.gov.au/soap, including your:

* name
* school
* entry.

If you **are unsuccessful**, you can ask us for feedback about your application.

# More information or help

Contact us to:

* learn more about the competition
* for help with your application.

## Contact us

* Email Spirit of Anzac Prize soap@dffh.vic.gov.au. You can provide a phone number and the best time for us to return your call (during business hours).
* **If you need an interpreter:**
Email Spirit of Anzac Prize soap@dffh.vic.gov.au to request a call back, advising us of your preferred language.
* **If you are deaf, hearing impaired or speech impaired:**

Email Spirit of Anzac Prize soap@dffh.vic.gov.au to request a call back and tell us the National Relay Service you would like us to use to contact you.

## Subscribe to our updates

Keep up to date with the Premier’s Spirit of Anzac Prize, [subscribe to the email update](https://dhhsvicgovau-my.sharepoint.com/personal/laura_cavallo_dffh_vic_gov_au/Documents/Attachments/subscribe%20to%20the%20email%20update) https://confirmsubscription.com/h/y/B918D1EA3CFD2558.