



# Queensland Writers Centre and Society of Editors (Qld) trial editing program for fiction 2014

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## Overview

The trial editing program for fiction is designed to foster a stronger relationship between the Society of Editors (Qld) Inc. and Queensland Writers Centre (QWC).

Key objectives include building the capabilities and confidence of Society members around fiction editing while simultaneously providing an opportunity for members of QWC to experience a professional edit at an affordable price.

## Background

During 2013, the Society held a two-part fiction editing workshop led by Leonie Tyle, who has more than twenty-five years' experience managing publishing programs.

Eighteen members of the Society attended the workshop sessions.

The first session covered:

- structural editing
- story elements (characters, setting, plot, conflict, theme)
- theme
- flow
- tense and voice.

Two samples of short fiction were discussed, followed by role plays between author and editor.

Workshop participants were given another two short pieces of fiction to take home to edit and prepare an editorial report, with a recommendation as to which of the two pieces should be published and why.

The second session saw the same participants come together and review the discussions of the first. The two homework pieces of fiction were discussed, together with the importance of the author–editor relationship.

## Outcome

**With the support of the Society, the eighteen editors who participated in the fiction editing workshop now offer their services exclusively to QWC members on the following basis:**

### Program

All editor-participants will offer a discounted service of \$40 per hour to QWC members during a trial period of six months from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2014 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2014.

Services on offer include:

- structural editing
- copyediting
- proofreading
- a combination of the above services.

Services exclude:

- typesetting
- reformatting
- translating
- manuscript assessment.

This service is available to QWC members and for works of fiction narrative only – no exceptions. **Poetry, non-fiction and theses are excluded from this special rate.**

This service is limited to the eighteen editors who participated in the aforementioned fiction editing workshop.

The program is designed to cater for short stories, novellas and full-length manuscripts (or a section thereof) that can be completed within the trial period.

### Process

1. The Society will provide a bio for each participating editor to QWC, which will promote the program to its members as it sees fit.
2. Authors can select the editor of their choice from the list of bios from QWC's website. QWC members seeking editing assistance through the Society will also find a news item on the Society's website with a link to QWC.
3. Levels of experience and/or qualifications of editors will vary. It is the responsibility of the authors to check the editor's skill level.
4. It is the responsibility of the individual editor to confirm that the author is a member of QWC by asking for their membership number. A phone call or email to QWC will then confirm their membership is current and has a minimum of six months membership remaining. QWC contact details are:

Phone: 07 3842 9922

Email: [qldwriters@qwc.asn.au](mailto:qldwriters@qwc.asn.au)

**NB:** Due to privacy laws, QWC cannot provide membership details without consent of the member. By using this service, QWC members consent to have the status of their membership confirmed by an editor participating in this program.

5. The length of time it takes an editor to undertake a comprehensive edit will depend on the type of service requested as well as the quality and length of the manuscript. The length of time to edit one manuscript against another can vary greatly; hence the Society is unable to provide any 'rule of thumb' guidelines around costs.
6. It is the responsibility of the individual editor to request a sample of the author's work (e.g. synopsis, and 20–50 pages or three chapters) before agreeing to accept the job. It is the responsibility of the editor to:
  - a. ascertain the author's requirements
  - b. undertake a trial edit to ascertain an anticipated timeframe to carry out the work (authors will not be charged additional costs for this service)
  - c. provide an estimate including anticipated timeline of delivery, total cost and breakdown of proposed service
  - d. The editor will provide a quote within one week of receipt of the submission.

Costs and timeline may change during the course of the consultation due to volume of work required or changes in author requirements; should the quote vary more than 10% of the original quote, the editor is to contact the applicant for approval of the adjusted rate **before completing the work.**

7. It is the responsibility of the author-applicant to:
  - a. submit a sample of work (e.g. synopsis, and 20–50 pages or three chapters)
  - b. supply a list of required services (e.g. structural edit or copyedit)
  - c. request an estimated total cost for the service that specifies services included and timeline of delivery.
8. It is the responsibility of the individual editor to negotiate a payment schedule and invoice the author accordingly. Invoices must provide an itemised list of work provided.
9. The author agrees to pay the agreed amount in a timely fashion. (An editor may request a start-of-work payment and subsequent progress payments. This will not be in addition to the estimated total, nor affect the overall cost estimated during the trial edit phase.)

**10. The editor agrees not to charge a reading fee at any portion of the process.**

11. If an editor feels that a submitted manuscript is out of their league, they have the right to reject the job.
12. The Society emphasises that having a manuscript edited does not guarantee the work will be published.
13. Neither the Society of Editors (Qld) Inc. nor QWC can guarantee work.
14. As freelancers, editors do not come with an endorsement by the Society.
15. Agreements are entered into between applicant and editor. QWC and the Society accept no responsibility for agreements and are unable to offer arbitration during any portion of the process.
16. Resources and information about best practice and the editing process in general are available on the QWC website [www.qwc.asn.au](http://www.qwc.asn.au) and Society of Editors (Qld) Inc. website [www.editorsqld.com](http://www.editorsqld.com).