



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard 29 April 2004

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Premier's Literary Awards

Hon. P. D. BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.44 a.m.): Tomorrow I will have the pleasure of launching the 2004 Queensland Premier's Literary Awards. Last year, in terms of dollars, Queensland offered Australia's biggest literary awards by a small margin, just ahead of New South Wales. This year, in terms of dollars, we are Australia's biggest literary awards by a huge margin. We have increased our prize money from \$155,000 to \$225,000. The 2004 awards mark our biggest expansion in the six-year history of the awards, increasing the number of categories from nine to 14. I seek leave to incorporate further details in *Hansard* for the information of members.

Leave granted.

This will include incorporating three awards which previously were not included in this program as well as introducing two new categories.

In addition to recognising the Best Television Script, we will have a new category for the Best Film Script.

We have also created a new category which is very appropriate for the Smart State.

The new category is an award for Best Science Writing.

There is plenty for science writers to write about in Queensland. Take just one field of science as an example—medical research.

In previous Ministerial statements this term I have highlighted two excellent examples: researchers at the Mater Medical Research Institute are working on an alternative to conventional bone marrow transplants, and the Wesley Research Institute has a project which may allow heart patients to grow new arteries.

Entries for the 14 categories close on June 4 and I will announce the winners in September.

The 2004 Queensland Premier's Literary Award categories are:

- Science Writers Award (\$15,000)
- Best Film Script—Pacific Film and Television Commission Award (\$15,000)
- Arts Queensland Judith Wright Calanthe Award for Poetry (\$15,000)
- Arts Queensland Steele Rudd Australian Short Story Award (\$15,000)
- David Unaipon Award for an Unpublished Indigenous Writer (\$15,000)
- Best Fiction Book (\$25,000)
- Best Manuscript of an Emerging Queensland Author (\$20,000)
- Best Literary or Media Work Advancing Public Debate—the Harry Williams Award (\$15,000)
- Best History Book (\$15,000)
- Best Non-Fiction Book (\$15,000)
- Best Children's Book (\$15,000)
- Best Young Adult Book (\$15,000)
- Best Drama Script (Stage) (\$15,000)
- Best Television Script (\$15,000)