



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Thursday, 24 May 2007

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Premier's Literary Awards

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.36 am): Nominations for the 2007 Premier's Literary Awards close this Friday. I encourage writers to enter, and I seek leave to incorporate details in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

These are the richest awards of their kind in the country, and they are held in the highest esteem, for both their diversity and the prizepool—\$225,000 across 14 categories.

My Government is proud to fund this program, which is now in its ninth year, because we recognise good writing can influence and inspire, and the arts are also such an important part of the Smart State.

Whether it is writing film or TV scripts, books, plays or even newspapers, these awards nurture talent and give winners important exposure in their industry.

As well as rewarding published works, Mr Speaker, the awards will mentor two winning authors and their work will be published by The University of Queensland Press.

The talent that brings us the stories of Australia's people, places, culture, history and our politics in various literary forms is worthy of celebration.

Nominations close Friday, Mr Speaker, the shortlist will be announced in August and winners in September.