

OUR SAAY

South Australian
Aboriginal Youth

Public Speaking
Competition

2024



COMMISSIONER FOR
ABORIGINAL CHILDREN
& YOUNG PEOPLE



Overview

The Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People, April Lawrie, is pleased to open the 2024 South Australian Aboriginal Youth Public Speaking Competition OUR SAAY.

Launched in 2023, OUR SAAY is a program and competition of the first of its kind in South Australia, with entry restricted to Aboriginal children and young people.

OUR SAAY encourages Aboriginal children and young people to raise their voices on important topics and matters in Aboriginal affairs.

Competition Entry

Commissioner Lawrie invites South Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, from Years 3 to 13, to participate in the OUR SAAY competition.

The Commissioner would encourage and support participation from students living in regional and remote areas to compete.

Students wishing to participate will be required to submit the online [OUR SAAY Public Speaking Competition EOI Form](#) available through the Commissioner's website.

Guidelines for the competition are listed below and can also be found on the 'OUR SAAY' page on the Commissioner's website (www.cacyp.com.au/oursaay/)

Preliminary Heats


Students who have submitted the OUR SAAY Competition EOI Form will be invited to attend the **preliminary heats** to be held at the Commissioner's office in Adelaide, South Australia, from the **14th to 16th of May 2024**.

Finals

Finalists will be required to attend a gala event in Adelaide on Wednesday 10 July 2024 during NAIDOC Week 2024, with prizes and awards given.

Please note that in order to participate, the OUR SAAY Competition EOI Form will need to be received by close of business **Friday 26 April 2024**.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the Competition Coordinator, Alisha Staines, on 08 8226 3345 or alisha.staines@sa.gov.au



OUR SAAY 2024 Guidelines

Introduction

Since commencing as the Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People in late 2018, Commissioner April Lawrie has been creating opportunities to amplify the voices of South Australia's Aboriginal youth.

OUR SAAY was created to hear the voices of Aboriginal youth in a formal capacity with the ability to showcase public speaking skills in a broader arena.

Conditions of entry

All Students must be Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and be enrolled in an educational facility within South Australia.

Speech Topics

Preliminary Heats

The topic of the **preliminary heats** will be:

"Tell us what the week of NAIDOC celebration means to you"

Choose one of the following areas when addressing this theme:

You

Your Family

Your Community

Your School

Australia

Please note that the speech topic is not aimed at the NAIDOC theme of 2024 specifically, but rather the week of celebration of NAIDOC.

It is at the discretion of the student to talk about their area of choice in their own informative way. This includes choice of words, expression use, pace, punctuation and articulation.

Finals

Students who are successful with progressing to the **finals** will be asked a question based on the theme of NAIDOC 2024:

'Keep the Fire Burning! Blak, Loud and Proud'



Age categories

Primary (Years 3-6) - 2 mins

Middle (Years 7-9) - 2 mins

Senior (Years 10-13) - 3 mins

Please note that the timeframes provided are indicators only and if you feel as if your question has been addressed in under the timeframe for your age category, this is fine.

However, all preliminary heat speeches will need to be no more than 3 minutes in length.

Preliminary Heats


Preliminary heats will be held in person at the Commissioner's office, 55 Currie Street, Adelaide CBD from **14th to 16th of May 2024**. The preliminary judging panel will comprise of three Aboriginal Community Members who will review and assess in live time.

Students will be formally notified if they were successful in being selected to compete in the finals via their nominated email.

Please contact the Competition Coordinator, Alisha Staines, on 08 8226 3345 or alisha.staines@sa.gov.au, should the student be unable to participate in person. We are happy to negotiate where we can with students and families regarding their participation.

Finals

The finals event will be held during NAIDOC Week 2024 on **Wednesday 10th July**. Students participating in the finals and their families, school representatives, community members and distinguished guests will be invited to observe the finals, followed by the presentation of winners and then refreshments. Finalists from regional or remote areas who have been successful in the preliminary heats will be able to access travel assistance to attend the event. Please contact the Competition Coordinator, Alisha Staines, for further information.



Prizes

The successful winners will receive the following prizes:

Primary (Years 3-6) - winner will each receive a trophy, certificate, and an iPad.

Middle (Years 7-9) – winner will each receive a trophy, certificate, and an iPad.

Senior (Years 10-13)- winner will each receive a trophy, certificate, and a MacBook Air.

All entrants will receive a certificate of participation.

Assessment

Please note that judges are required to give equal consideration to speech delivery. Judging is a subjective process but will always be related to the nominated criteria that is established prior to competition commencement.

Factors to be considered in judging the competition include:

- **Speech notes**- speech notes are not to be used by students.
However, use of cue or palm cards is allowed.
- **Microphones**- all students will be required to use a microphone when delivering speeches in the finals.
- **Judging Panel**- there will be two panels of judges.
 - Preliminary heats Shortlisting Panel
 - Finals Judging Panel
- **Judges** will remain anonymous throughout the year. In both arrangements; the judging panel will be Aboriginal people.