



AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF LAW

NOTICE OF ANNUAL ESSAY PRIZE 2026

The Australian Academy of Law invites you to submit an essay for its 2026 *Annual Essay Prize*.

The Prize is open to anyone, wherever resident, who is studying or has studied legal subjects at a tertiary level, or who is working or has worked in a law-based occupation. There is no limit by reference to the age or seniority or experience of, or position held by, a person who may submit an entry. Accordingly, law students, legal academics, legal practitioners and judicial officers are all eligible to submit an essay.

The amount of the Prize is \$10,000.

The essay topic for the Prize in 2026 is as follows:

“Section 51(xxxi) of the Commonwealth Constitution confers power on the Commonwealth Parliament to make laws with respect to the acquisition of property on just terms from any State or person for any purpose in respect of which the Parliament has power to make laws.

What is the relationship between s 51(xxxi) and:

(1) the other powers under s 51; and

(2) the rest of the Constitution?

Has the 2025 trilogy of cases, *Commonwealth v Yunupingu* [2025] HCA 6, *G Global 120 TE Pty Ltd v Commissioner of State Revenue (Qld)* [2025] HCA 39, *Russian Federation v Commonwealth* [2025] HCA 44, resolved that relationship?

Do you agree?”

The length of the essay to be submitted is a maximum of 8,000 words (excluding the abstract).

The essay must be the author’s own original work and written for the purpose of the competition.

The deadline for the submission of an essay is 31 August 2026 and this time limit is strictly observed, as the Rules governing the Annual Essay Prize make clear.

Essays should be submitted to the Secretariat at the Australian Academy of Law
aalsecretariat@academyoflaw.org.au

The Rules can be accessed on the Academy's website:
<https://www.academyoflaw.org.au/Essay-Prize-Rules>

You should also refer to the [Academy's website for further information](#) about the details for the submission of an entry as well as information on previous winners.