Joint statement

$5,000 essay competition re-launches

The Gavin Mooney Memorial Essay Competition is being re-launched as a grants process, and as a joint project of the University of Wollongong, Croakey.org, and the online magazine Inside Story.

The competition honours the work and memory of the late Professor Gavin Mooney, a health economist who was a tireless advocate for social justice in local, national and international arenas. He was also a prolific contributor to Croakey.

Rather than awarding a prize for a completed essay (as was the case with the competition in 2013-2015), applicants are asked to submit a 500-word pitch for

an essay or work of reportage on the topic of inequality and health. From these, an applicant will be commissioned to expand their proposal into a full-length article for a fee of $5000.

Keywords to consider include: *power, community, voice, solutions, justice.*

The essay may take a local, national or global focus. Entry is open to anyone, in Australia or overseas, whether academics, writers, journalists or citizens.

The $5,000 grant is donated by the University of Wollongong.

As well as honouring Professor Mooney, the competition seeks to draw public attention to social justice and health equity concerns, and to recognise the public interest value of writing and writers.

As well as their pitch, applicants are asked to provide:

• A short biography and CV, indicating their capacity to undertake the project
• Two relevant samples of previous work
• Details of two referees who have previously published the applicant's work or who know their work well
• A work plan indicating how the applicant would have the essay ready for publication within four months of being awarded the $5,000 grant.

This is not intended to be an academic publication. Please pitch your essay for a general audience (although you are welcome to provide references).

Entries must not have been previously published. Applications should be sent to info@Croakey.org by midnight on **27 October**. A decision will be made by mid-November.

The winning entry will be published by Inside Story and Croakey, and editorial processes will be jointly managed by Peter Browne and Melissa Sweet. The aim is to publish the winning entry in the first half of 2018.

Judging processes

Judging criteria include:

• The work will be disruptive i.e. challenging or prompting change in status quo
• The work will incorporate novel ideas or approaches or thinking or style
• The work will tell stories that matter
• The quality of the writing.

Professor Glenn Salkeld, Peter Browne and Melissa Sweet will jointly develop a short list of five applications with a final decision to be made by these judges:

Professor Simon Eckerman, health economist, UoW
Professor Paul Chandler, Pro Vice Chancellor, UoW
Ms Kelly Briggs, writer and author
Professor Glenn Salkeld, Executive Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, UoW
Peter Browne, Editor, Inside Story
Melissa Sweet, Editor, Croakey

Background

For its first three years, the competition was a joint project between the Sydney School of Public Health at the University of Sydney, Inside Story and Croakey.

The inaugural competition had the theme of climate change and equity, in recognition of the work of Professor Mooney's late partner Dr Delys Weston.

The winning entry in 2013, by Dr Tim Senior, *Climate change and equity: whose language is it anyway?*, was published at Inside Story, and the five best essays were published in this free e-book.

NSW freelance writer El Gibbs won the 2014 competition with an essay titled, *A place to call home: housing security and mental health*, which was published at Inside Story. The 2014 topic was: The social and cultural determinants of mental health: collective responsibilities; individualism; austerity; entitlements.

The 2015 topic was: In the digital era, whose voices are being heard?, and the winning author was Amin Ansari, a PhD candidate at Flinders University, whose essay was titled, **Lighting the Dark Waters.**

For more information: info@Croakey.org