



NEW ZEALAND HIGH COMMISSION ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION 2025

INTRODUCTION

With support from the Fiji Ministry of Education, the New Zealand High Commission offers a writing competition to secondary school students in conjunction with the Fiji Association in Auckland Inc. This is the 17th consecutive year the competition has been offered, attracting participation from throughout Fiji.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE?

Students in Years 10 to 13, currently at any registered Fiji secondary school, may send an entry certified by the principal or head of department, submitted by the school. Please note the closing date carefully. Entries sent directly by students will not be accepted. Joint or group entries will be disallowed. One entry per student will be accepted. Coordinating teachers should email entries where possible or send them to the High Commission's postal or physical address, together with the certifying form.

POINTS TO REMEMBER

Students are encouraged to present their own views, based on research that should be clearly acknowledged. Do not just copy and paste. Your essay should be written in the English language. Use one side of the paper and write your name on each page. It is important to write your full name, as this is how names will appear on Certificates. Your essay may be computer generated or hand written. Pictures and illustrations should not be used.

The essay should not exceed **1200** words. Please indicate the word count clearly.

TOPIC FOR 2025

Fiji's Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka – and other regional leaders – have posed that the Pacific Ocean should be an 'Ocean of Peace'. What does an Ocean of Peace mean to you? What needs to be done in practice, and by whom, to achieve an Ocean of Peace here in the Pacific?

JUDGE

For the seventeenth consecutive year, Dr Satendra Singh, ONZM, QSM, OF, PBSA, of Auckland, will judge the competition. Dr Singh was a member of the foundation Department of Foreign Affairs of Fiji following independence. The decisions will be final. No correspondence will be entered on this.

20 WINNERS AND PRIZES

CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION (SUPREME WINNERS):

TWO STUDENTS WILL BE SELECTED FOR THIS AWARD. EACH WILL RECEIVE F\$500, A LAPTOP AND TROPHY.

THE WINNING SCHOOLS WILL BE PRESENTED WITH SPECIAL PLAQUES AT THE SCHOOL'S ASSEMBLY.

CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE:

THREE STUDENTS WILL EACH RECEIVE THIS AWARD AND F\$500.

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT:

TEN STUDENTS WILL EACH RECEIVE THIS AWARD AND F\$300.

CERTIFICATE OF HONORABLE MENTION:

FIVE STUDENTS WILL EACH RECEIVE F\$200.

Winners will receive payments only by direct transfer into their bank accounts.

All participating students will be sent a Certificate of Appreciation, signed jointly by the NZ High Commissioner, The Fiji Permanent Secretary of Education, the Adjudicator and The Fiji Association in Auckland Registrar.

Schools should ensure to provide postal addresses for sending the Certificate of Appreciation. Entries cannot be returned. Winning essays may be reproduced in part or full in articles related to the competition. In such cases, winners and schools will be duly acknowledged.

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES: 2pm 19th June 2025.

VISIT TO SCHOOLS BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER AND JUDGE

Her Excellency High Commissioner Charlotte Darlow and Competition Judge, Dr Satendra Singh will visit some winning and also participating schools to meet with students and teachers to attend the school's assembly and award prizes.

For further information, coordinating teachers may contact Monika Mala at the New Zealand High Commission, Suva

Email: Monika.Mala@mfat.govt.nz or Phone +679 7790805

Entries will need to be emailed to Monika.Mala@mfat.govt.nz

FORM TO BE SUBMITTED BY SCHOOLS WITH ENTRIES

NAME OF SCHOOL:

EMAIL OF COORDINATING TEACHER/HOD:

Telephone Contact:

Postal Address:

NAME OF STUDENT

YEAR 10/11/12/13

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

Signature of Principal/HOD

Stamp