ORAL HISTORY WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Jean Teasdale Oral History Bursary 2026

Guidelines and Application Form

We encourage applications from groups whose oral histories will enrich our records of Western Australian history, including from First Nations, LGBTIQ+ and migrant communities.

Bursary Application closing date: 20 September 2026

See Oral History WA for more information:

By email – contact@oralhistorywa.org.au

By Facebook – www.facebook.com/oralhistoryWA

Website: https://oralhistorywa.org.au/

[OFFICIAL]

ORAL HISTORY Western Australia
Jean Teasdale Bursary Scheme
APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Purpose

This bursary is named for Jean Teasdale, the founder of the Oral History WA association.

In the mid 1970s, Jean was one of the first interviewers appointed during the establishment of the Battye Library's oral history collection. She conducted over 60 life-story interviews herself and trained others in oral history practice. Recognising the lack of support for oral history practitioners in Australia, Jean joined international associations and built a network that eventually became the Oral History Association of Australia.

In the spirit of Jean Teasdale's legacy, this bursary scheme aims to support and encourage the practice of oral history in Western Australia.

We encourage all prospective oral historians to join our Association so that we can help fulfil these objectives.

Bursary Funds

Up to $2,000.00 will be made available for project applications in 2026.

Why is Oral History important?

'Oral history is a picture of the past in people's own words. Oral history is as old as humanity but today it is associated with recorded interviews with people about their memories.' – Beth M Robertson, Oral History Handbook

Oral history interviews allow stories of the past to be recorded in people's own words. It tells us not just 'what happened', but why it is important to the people who lived through events and experiences in the past.

Oral history interviews involve the creation of new historical sources through a process of asking and answering questions. To be archived for future generations, these recordings must be conducted at the highest ethical and technical standards.

[OFFICIAL]

Who Can Apply?

Applications are invited from individuals, community groups and voluntary organisations who are financial members of Oral History WA. Membership forms can be found on the OHWA website.

What Projects Can Be Funded?

Suitable projects may include:

- recording oral history interviews
- transcribing new or existing oral history interviews
- work that interprets new or existing interviews for a public audience, for example, an exhibition, display, website content, multimedia product, arts projects, or
- a combination of these

Projects should highlight an aspect of Western Australian history, such as:

- a particular subject area, e.g., music, sport, education, medicine, architecture
- community or family history
- history of an organisation or business.

Applicants are encouraged to seek part funding for their projects from additional sources, where possible.

What can the funds be used for?

Funds may be used towards project costs, including travel to interviews, professional recording equipment, digitisation costs, or employing a professional oral historian or transcriptionist.

Please note that OHWA has a small number of audio recorders that are available for loan to members. Purchase of new equipment would need to be justified.

Oral history recordings can be audio-only or video and should ideally be recorded at a quality suitable for archiving in a repository such as the State Library of Western Australia (SLWA), or a local history collection.

Project assistance

OHWA can provide advice about how to approach your project. Please email contact@ohwa.org.au. .

How Projects Are Assessed

Applications will be assessed by a panel of oral historians selected by the Oral History Western Australia Committee. The committee reserves the right not to award any bursaries if there are no applications of a sufficiently high standard.

[OFFICIAL]

1. Criteria for Assessment

The panel assesses applications according to the following criteria:

1.1. The project reflects the definition of oral history (refer above).
1.2. The significance of the project is clearly outlined.
1.3. The process of how the project is to be conducted is fully and clearly explained.
1.4. The expected outcomes and anticipated end use of the project are clearly outlined. For example:
    1.4.1. how does the project enrich the people involved in the process so that there is a broader and ongoing impact?
    1.4.2. how will the oral histories be used rather than them being an end in themselves? For example: publication, play, series of articles, website, exhibition.
    1.4.3. how will the recordings be preserved in the long-term? For example: in a library or archive?
1.5. Projects that support non-profit organisations rather than organisations which can call on government funding will be given preference.
1.6. Collaborative projects will be viewed favourably. For example, recording interviews that are lodged with a library or archive; or a local historical society collaborating with a local school or service club.
1.7. The project is costed as accurately as possible. A budget of estimated costs should be included. Any additional support, including financial and in-kind support, should be clearly stated.

2. Applying for a Bursary

Read the application form carefully and ensure you complete all relevant sections:

2.1. Email the form and any attachment to OHWA by the given deadline.
2.2. Include detailed and accurate information, including a budget.
2.3. Attach copies of quotations, letters of support and any other supporting documents.

3. Claiming your Bursary

3.1. The successful bursary recipient will be notified by e-mail and announced on OHWA and OHAA's website. The awards will be presented at at the 2024 OHWA Annual General Meeting.
3.2. The successful applicant should then send an invoice to the Treasurer, OHWA, for the bursary amount together with bank account details to enable electronic payment of the funds.

[OFFICIAL]

4. Conditions of Bursary

4.1. Applicants must be current financial members of Oral History Western Australia at the time of applying and for the duration of the project.

4.2. The successful applicant will be required to provide a report on their project for Oral History Western Australia at a general meeting, and for publication on the website within one year of being awarded the bursary.

[OFFICIAL]

ORAL HISTORY WESTERN AUSTRALIA
JEAN TEASDALE BURSARY
APPLICATION FORM

Please make sure that you have read the Application Guidelines prior to completing this form.

REQUIRED INFORMATION

Name of individual and/or organisation:

_____

_____

Type of Project (tick as many as apply):

☐Recording oral history interviews
☐Transcription of existing interview or collection
☐Interpretation/public history)
☐Other

Working title of project (in 10 words or less):

_____

_____

Contact for project:

Name: _____

Position: _____

Phone No/s. _____ _____

E-mail address: _____

Postal address for correspondence:

_____

_____

_____ __ Post Code _____

[OFFICIAL]

BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR PROJECT (approx. 100 words or less)

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

If you are proposing to undertake interviews, have you e.g., attended a workshop (or equivalent) on how to do oral history, or had past interviewing experience?

PROJECT AIMS AND SIGNIFICANCE

What are the aims and significance of the project?

What is the scope of your project? (e.g., number of interviews to be carried out or transcribed, equipment to be used, proposed use of existing interviews)

[OFFICIAL]

How will you and/or your organisation manage the project?

How many people will be involved? What will be their roles?

What are the estimated commencement and completion dates of the project?

What is your contingency plan if circumstances change (e.g., due to COVID).

Please attach any other supporting evidence (e.g., letters of support from collaborating groups).

[OFFICIAL]

PROJECT BUDGET

- Please attach quotes where appropriate

Project Costs

Item	Cost (including GST)	GST Component
Total Costs	**$**	**$**
Bursary Amount Sought	**$**	

Financial details of Project

Amount of Bursary	**$**
Own Cash Contribution	**$**
Other Contributions (e.g., other bursarys / in-kind)	**$**
Total Cost of Project	**$**

[OFFICIAL]

DECLARATION BY OR ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT

I, _____certify on behalf of the applicant that bursaries received from Oral History Western Australia will be spent in the manner approved by OHWA. Any proposed alteration to the project will be referred to OHWA for its prior approval.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Position in organisation: _____

Signature: _____

(Please sign here and then scan the page. This page can be sent as a separate file)

Date of application: _____

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Before submitting this application form, please check that you have:

☐ completed all required sections.

☐ signed the Declaration section on the application form.

☐ attached any requirements such as working plans, letters of support, quotes.

☐ indicated the bursary amount you are seeking.

Please e-mail completed applications forms to: contact@oralhistorywa.org.au
For further information: contact@oralhistorywa.org.au

CLOSING DATES FOR APPLICATIONS: Sunday 20 September 2026

[OFFICIAL]