

Frequently Asked Questions:

How do I enter the heats of the Australian Poetry Slam?

Simple, just show up! There's no pre-booking or experience necessary: just show up on the evening and register your name at the door. Be warned, only 20 poets can compete at each heat, so get in early to avoid missing out. Sign-up opens half an hour before the event starts.

If I don't get through on the first heat I attend, can I perform at another?

Absolutely! You can perform at any of the heats in South Australia to try to secure a place in the state final. We also suggest checking out the smaller suburban heats for the best chance of getting through - there are usually fewer people than the busier city heats.

How many poems do I have to have?

Good question. The Australian Poetry Slam requires you to perform one original poem at the heats, one at the State Final, and then two new poems at the National Final in Sydney. So, you should come prepared with **four original poems** that you feel best represent who you are and what you have to say.

If I don't make it through to final during one heat, can I use the same poem for the next heat?

Short answer, yes. You can use the same poem at the next heat if you did not score high enough to make it through to the State Final. However, this can be a great opportunity for a re-write or edit now that you've had a chance to see how the audience reacts to your poem.

Can I use poems I have used before at other open mics?

You can use any poems that you have written yourself, including ones that you have shared on social media or published; however, they cannot be poems that you have performed at an Australian Poetry Slam event previously. For example, this means that you can perform poems that you have used in the Summer Slam or The Rumble, or that you have written as part of a poet in residency workshop. The only rule is that if you have ever performed them as part of an Australian Poetry Slam event, then they are ineligible.

Do I have to memorise my poem?

Technically, you can read off your phone or a piece of paper, but most audience judges award more points to performers who have memorised their poems. This also allows you the best chance of connecting with your audience through performance and eye contact. We strongly recommend you try your best to be as familiar as possible with all your poems before you step on stage.