

NATIONAL SCHOOLS COMPETITION TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. The competition is open to students enrolled in Years 10, 11 or 12 at an Australian secondary school at the time of entry.
2. Entries must be submitted by 9:00pm AEDT on Thursday 17 December 2026 via email to events@unwomen.org.au.
3. All entries must be accompanied by a completed Parent/Guardian Consent Form. Entries submitted without a completed consent form may be deemed ineligible.
4. Participants may submit one entry only. Entries must be the original work of the participant and must not infringe the intellectual property rights of any third party.
5. All submitted entries must be human-created work. The use of generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools is not permitted for writing or prompting ideas. All entries will be run through an AI checker and any submissions failing the AI check will be automatically disqualified.
6. Entries may be submitted in one of the following formats:
 - Written pitch of up to 250 words (Word or PDF format), or
 - Video message of 30-40 seconds (.mp4 or .mov format).
7. Late, incomplete, illegible or corrupted submissions may not be considered.
8. Entries will be assessed by a judging panel appointed by UN Women Australia. Judging will be based on:
 - Understanding of the chosen Sustainable Development Goal;
 - Demonstrated awareness of gender equality issues;
 - Creativity and originality;
 - Quality and clarity of proposed action; and
 - Overall effectiveness of communication.
9. The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
10. State/territory winners will be notified by 13 January 2027.
11. One winner will be selected from each Australian state and territory, resulting in up to eight State/Territory Winners.
12. State/Territory Winners will be invited to attend the UN Women Australia Parliamentary Breakfast in Canberra in February 2027, accompanied by one adult chaperone.

13. Reasonable travel and accommodation expenses for the State/Territory Winner with one accompanying adult will be reimbursed up to a maximum of AUD \$1,000 per winning entrant, subject to submission of valid receipts and supporting documentation.
14. Any expenses exceeding the reimbursement limit are the responsibility of the winner and accompanying adult.
14. If a State/Territory Winner is unable to attend the Parliamentary Breakfast, they will remain eligible to receive their Certificate of Achievement and any other components of the prize determined by UN Women Australia.
15. Meet-and-greet opportunities with speakers, parliamentarians or special guests are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed.
16. One National Winner will be selected from the State/Territory Winners.
17. The National Winner will:
 - Receive a \$500 gift card;
 - Receive a media feature highlighting their school and personal achievement
19. The gift card prize is not transferable, exchangeable or redeemable for cash.
20. State/Territory Winners will receive a Certificate of Achievement and may be featured on UN Women Australia social media channels and other promotional materials.
21. The optional two-week remote work experience opportunity will be arranged at a mutually agreed time and is subject to availability
22. By entering the competition, participants and their parent/guardian consent to UN Women Australia using the entrant's name, school, state/territory, submitted entry and associated photographs, video or recordings for promotional, educational and reporting purposes without additional compensation.
23. Personal information collected through the competition will be handled in accordance with UN Women Australia's Privacy Policy.
24. If a winner is unable or unwilling to accept a prize, UN Women Australia reserves the right to select an alternative winner.
25. UN Women Australia reserves the right to verify eligibility, disqualify any entrant who breaches these Terms and Conditions, and cancel, modify or suspend the competition where necessary due to circumstances beyond its reasonable control.
26. To the extent permitted by law, UN Women Australia accepts no responsibility for technical failures, lost submissions, travel disruptions or events outside its reasonable control that may affect participation in the competition.