



AUSTRALIAN ROSTRUM (ACT DAIS) INC

PATRON: The Speaker of the ACT Legislative Assembly

PRIMARY SCHOOLS PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION 2026

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Rostrum Primary Schools competition has been running for over 50 years for schools in the ACT and surrounding NSW. Each school is invited to enter one competitor into the competition after running a selection process in their own school.

1. Speeches are for 3 minutes with a warning bell at 2 minutes.
2. Topics below are for the Quarter Finals (QFs) and Semi-Finals (SFs). Schools may use these topics for their own selection process. New topics will be set for the Grand Final (GF) and speeches will be longer.
3. School Finals are conducted by each participating school at their discretion but before 21 May. Each school nominates their School Champion (SC), and should also have a Reserve in case their SC is unable to attend a QF.
4. QFs are held at host schools in the evening during June and July. Two Winners from each QF will proceed to a SF. A Reserve is also selected in case a Winner is unable to attend a SF.
5. SFs are held at host schools in the evening during August. Two Winners from each SF will proceed to the GF. A Reserve is also selected and if not required to fill in, the Reserves from each SF are invited to speak at the GF non-competitively.
6. All competitors at the QFs, SFs and the GF receive a certificate.
7. The GF will be held at the Canberra College Theatre in Phillip in the evening on Monday 14 September 2026. All Finalists receive medallions, and the Winner and Runner-Up receive trophies. A Perpetual Shield goes to the Winner's school for a year. Finalists and Reserves compete for a People's Choice Award voted by the audience.

The success of the Rostrum Competition means that we now have over 90 schools participating each year, so there are 13 QFs and 4 SFs. Two of the QFs are held in NSW. This means we require 11 ACT schools to offer to host a QF. If your school hosts, your competitor will be able to compete at your venue. Rostrum will work with host schools to ensure compliance with any COVID requirements. Simply indicate your willingness to host a QF on the online Registration Form, and your preferred dates, Monday to Thursday evenings.

How to register: This is the link to the online registration form for the 2026 PSSC. Please register your school by 2 April 2026. We will need the name of your School Champion by Thursday 21 May 2026 (a separate form will be provided for this purpose).

<https://forms.gle/cK1uKSioNoNCbK4w9>

Linda Thane, **Chief Coordinator**

Email: linda.thane5@gmail.com (preferred contact) or phone: 0428 497 813



AUSTRALIAN ROSTRUM (A.C.T. DAIS) INC.

PATRON: The Speaker of the A.C.T. Legislative Assembly

**PRIMARY SCHOOLS PUBLIC SPEAKING
COMPETITION (PSSC)
2026**

TOPICS FOR THE QUARTER AND SEMI FINALS

Speeches are 3 minutes (warning bell @ 2 minutes)

Acronyms

Bees

Behind the scenes

E bikes

Harmony

Satellites

Stepping up

The Year of the Horse

Note: Details of venues and dates for the quarter finals will be forwarded to schools after all Registrations have been received and host schools organised. Topics for the Grand Final will be advised two weeks prior to the Grand Final. Speeches will be longer.