National Student Wearable Art Showcase 2027

Australian Wearable Art Festival

in partnership with St Andrew's Anglican College

ARTISTS GUIDE

THE ESSENTIAL IDEA Students enter one open field of wearable art. Round One selects the finalist field. Finalists then develop and complete their work with two progress reviews before bringing it to the National Student Wearable Art Showcase on Thursday 12 August 2027 for judging, rehearsal and the evening Gala Show.

What We Mean by Wearable Art

Wearable art is an original artwork created to be worn, using the human body as its moving canvas. It may draw on sculpture, textiles, technology, architecture, craft, fashion or other creative disciplines, with artistic expression at its heart.

There is no single right material, silhouette, technique or style. The strongest entries are those where the student's idea, materials, making and relationship with the body come together as one resolved work.

2027 at a Glance

- There are no entry categories and students do not nominate an award.
- **Students in Years 9-12, or the home-education equivalent, may enter subject to the eligibility requirements in the NSS 2027 Terms, Conditions & Entry Requirements.**
- Round One is a selection process that chooses the finalist field; it is not the final judging of completed artworks.
- Finalists take part in two progress reviews before the Showcase.
- AWAF selects and coordinates the runway models. Students provide the sizing, height and fitting information needed to help us make the best match.
- AWAF coordinates makeup and screen content. Students may tell us their music preferences, but final music choices remain subject to suitability and the overall curation of the Showcase.
- Judging, rehearsal and the Gala Show all take place on Thursday 12 August 2027. Individual call times are TBC.
- Awards are announced and presented during the evening National Student Showcase Gala Show. There is no People's Choice Award.

The Showcase Journey

STAGE	WHAT HAPPENS
Entry	One application per artwork brings together the student or team details, school or home-education information, nominated adult contact, creative idea, supporting material and required declarations.
Round One	A Selection Panel reviews eligible entries and selects the finalist field.
Finalist development	Finalists develop or complete their accepted work, take part in two progress reviews and provide staged practical information to AWAF.
Model planning	Students provide height, sizing, fit, dressing and movement information so AWAF can select an appropriate model.
Thursday 12 August	Finalists arrive for individual judging, rehearsal and preparation before the evening Gala Show.
Gala Show & awards	The finalist field is presented to the audience and the 2027 National Student Showcase awards are announced.

1. Prepare and Submit Your Entry

The online entry form is designed to help the Selection Panel understand what you want to create and how you plan to make it. Your artwork may be at concept stage, work in progress or further developed when you apply, as permitted by the published entry requirements.

Students do not need formal or academic language and are not expected to be expert illustrators. Use the words, sketches, photographs, material tests, moodboards or other supporting material that best communicate your idea.

2. Round One Selection

Round One chooses the finalist field. The Selection Panel considers each eligible entry as a whole, including the strength and clarity of the idea, originality, the proposed relationship with the body, materials and making approach, creative potential, feasibility and safe realisation.

DIFFERENT STAGES ARE WELCOME A more completed artwork is not automatically stronger than an earlier-stage idea. Entries are considered in the context of what has been submitted and the student's ability to communicate and realise the proposed work.

All entrants will be advised of the Round One outcome. Selected students will need to accept their finalist place by the published deadline through their nominated parent, guardian, teacher or other responsible adult contact.

3. Finalist Development

Becoming a finalist starts the next phase. Students continue making and refining their wearable artwork while AWAF gathers the information needed to present it safely and professionally.

STAGE	WHAT HAPPENS
Accept finalist place	Confirm participation and the student, school/home-education and nominated adult contact information required by AWAF.
Progress Review 1	Provide progress photographs and a short update on construction, materials, size, fit and any practical or safety matters. Date TBC.
Model information	Provide the intended wearer's approximate height and relevant body measurements, together with fit, dressing and movement requirements.
Music preference	Tell AWAF the music or style of music you feel suits the artwork. AWAF will consider the preference when curating the show and may change the music where needed for timing, suitability, technical or overall production reasons.
Program & images	Provide final artwork title, short program information and requested images. These may include a close-up or macro image showing a material, texture, technique or detail of the work.
Progress Review 2	Provide updated photographs and respond to any construction, fitting, safety or presentation matters identified earlier. Date TBC.
Final information	Confirm near-final dimensions, weight, dressing instructions, handling requirements and any other information AWAF needs for judging and presentation.

Making for a Real Person

Students are encouraged to develop the artwork around a real, accessible body size - often their own size or the size of a friend who is happy to help with fitting. This allows the work to be tried on throughout construction so that fit, balance, movement and wearability can be tested as the piece develops.

When requested, provide the wearer's approximate height and relevant measurements. AWAF will use this information to help select a suitable model. The selected model may not be an exact match, so finalists should allow reasonable adjustability wherever the design permits.

4. Thursday 12 August 2027 - Showcase Day

ONE BIG DAY Individual judging, rehearsal, preparation and the National Student Showcase Gala Show all take place on Thursday 12 August 2027. Final call times and the detailed running schedule will be confirmed with finalists and their nominated adults.

- Artwork arrival, check-in and any required safety or fit review.
- Individual close-up judging of the completed wearable artwork.
- Individual rehearsal and movement preparation with the selected model.
- AWAF-coordinated makeup and production preparation as scheduled.
- Final screen, music and production checks.
- The evening National Student Showcase Gala Show.
- Award announcements and presentations during the Gala Show.

The artwork is judged, not the confidence, appearance or charisma of the model. The model is there to help the judges and audience experience the artwork on the body and in motion.

5. Makeup, Music and Screen Presentation

AWAF will coordinate makeup and screen presentation for the National Student Showcase so that the complete show works as one professionally curated production.

Students will be able to tell AWAF their preferred music or music style and provide relevant creative information. We will try to honour the intention behind those preferences, but AWAF may change or edit a selection if it is unsuitable, cannot be used, creates a technical problem or does not work within the overall curation and timing of the show.

6. After the Gala Show - Foyer Viewing

At the conclusion of the Gala Show, the models and wearable artworks are planned to move into the foyer, where models will stand on presentation platforms so the audience can experience the works at closer range. Student artists may also be present with their work as arranged by AWAF.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND STUDENT PRIVACY Because student artists may be under 18, AWAF will set clear photography expectations for the foyer presentation. Before models and student artists move into the foyer, an announcement will be made during the Gala award ceremony asking audience members to seek permission before photographing an identifiable student. Foyer signage may reinforce this message. Audience members may photograph the wearable artworks and models subject to AWAF event photography arrangements, but students should not be photographed without their permission. Student artists will not be required to stand in a public photography position for their artwork to be displayed.

Official AWAF photography and any permissions for students, models and artworks will be managed separately through the finalist participation and consent process.

How the Awards Work

- Students enter the National Student Showcase, not an award category.
- Every eligible finalist is considered for the field-wide awards for which the completed work meets the published requirements.
- Junior and Senior Encouragement Awards are selected from the remaining eligible entries after the field-wide awards.
- A maximum of one judged award may be received by any entry.
- There is no People's Choice Award for the National Student Showcase.

Full award descriptions and criteria are published separately in the National Student Wearable Art Showcase 2027 Student Awards information.

2027 Key Dates and Milestones

STAGE	WHAT HAPPENS
Entries open	7 October 2026
Entries close	26 February 2027
Round One selection	8 March 2027
Entrants notified	10 March 2027
Finalist acceptance	15 March 2027
Model / sizing information	7 May 2027
Progress Review 1	14 May 2027
Progress Review 2	18 June 2027
Program, images & music preferences	25 June 2027
Final information	23 July 2027
Showcase Day	Thursday 12 August 2027 - individual judging, rehearsal, preparation, Gala Show and awards. Times TBC.

Accessibility and Support

Students and families may tell AWAF about practical support or adjustments that would help the student participate in the entry process or, if selected, the Showcase. A diagnosis or medical history is not required. Support information is not part of selection or judging material and should only be shared with the AWAF team members who need it to arrange participation.

READ TOGETHER This document should be read with the NSS 2027 Terms, Conditions & Entry Requirements, Student Awards, Code of Conduct and Privacy Collection Notice.