

About the Rainbow Hub Writing Group

We are a group of LGBTIQ+ people of all ages who enjoy working together as writers in a range of genres and styles.

We meet monthly on the second Saturday of each month to share and discuss our writing and/or to spend some time writing. Our meetings are a safe place where we can foster our confidence and capacities as writers.

We work as a group with no hierarchy and accept shared responsibility for the effectiveness of the interactions in the group.

Each meeting starts with a round in which everyone who wishes to speak says what they want to do that day; the meeting finishes with a final discussion about how the afternoon went, ideas for future meetings and any forthcoming events for writers.

The options for at each meeting include any combination of:

- Sharing some writing either by reading it to the group or providing a copy for group members to read
- Writing
- Listening to or reading other members' writing
- Discussing aspects of the writing process or specific genres or ...
- Participating in the giving and getting of feedback about shared writing
- Special activities or processes that the group selects.

Any author who shares their writing can ask for feedback and will be asked to specify what level and type of feedback they want. They can ask for general responses to their pieces and/or feedback which addresses issues relating to the genre, the tenor and tone of the language, characterisation etc or very specific aspects of syntax and structure, word choice etc.

The meeting will be managed by one of us. We start the meeting with a round and, based on what range of activities the members want to do that day, will work out with the group how the time will be split up. We all keep an eye on the time and make sure that there is time at the end for the whole group to come together to discuss anything that has arisen.

The meeting convenors are volunteers; not everybody has to undertake that role but all are invited to take a turn at this role.

We can be contacted at: oscar mobsa@gmail.com ; a contact person will monitor that address and will get back to anyone who writes to us.

We have agreed to:

- Listen to each other respectfully and intently
- Not interrupt someone who is speaking and not have 'side conversations'

- Share the time fairly and respectfully and not dominate the air space
- Not bring personal problems, concerns or agendas to the meeting but focus on the writing being shared.
- Be constructive and respectful in how we provide feedback to each other and keep to the type of feedback requested by the author.
- Respect everyone's contribution equally.
- Only use our phones and other electronic devices for relevant purposes whilst others are speaking.
- Contribute ideas about the group's effectiveness and functioning and speak up about anything that is concerning us.
- Take action if the behaviour of any group member is causing tension or discomfort by involving the whole group. For example: turning to the group, naming the concern and asking for there to be a break or for the meeting to end or If this happens group members will accede with that request and not debate it.

Membership of the writing group is open to any person who identifies as a member of the South Australian LGBTIQ+ community and is interested in developing as a writer.

All members are asked to affirm the general goals and activities of the group and to comply with the agreements about how we will function as a group.

Anyone who attends the group and who violates these agreements or is hostile and/or belittling will be asked to leave.

We are an initiative of the Rainbow Hub of COTA South Australia and remain associated with the Rainbow Hub as a self-managing group; from 2023 we are functioning in partnership with Bfriend.

These agreements can be added to or modified in a group meeting if there is consensus.