



***INFO PACK***  
***2022***



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Action Education and the South Auckland Poets Collective  
are proud to present

## WORD - The Front Line 2022

'WORD - The Front Line' is an inter-high school spoken word poetry competition, bringing together teams of young people from across Auckland to share their stories in an explosion of youth expression. It is a poetry slam with the purpose of engaging and growing the potential of our future leaders.

It is the only creative battlefield of its kind, equipping young people with poetry prowess and leadership principles for an opportunity to battle for themselves and the challenges that their generation face. The programme focuses on writing, performance, team work, personal development, youth voice, identity, leadership, and community. WORD - The Front Line is a platform for young people to express themselves, connect with others, and discover how they can change the world.

The programme was launched in 2014 and has continued to grow and go from strength to strength each year. In 2022 the programme will enter its 9th year and we are excited to witness young people rise, up, discover their voice, and grow in their leadership.



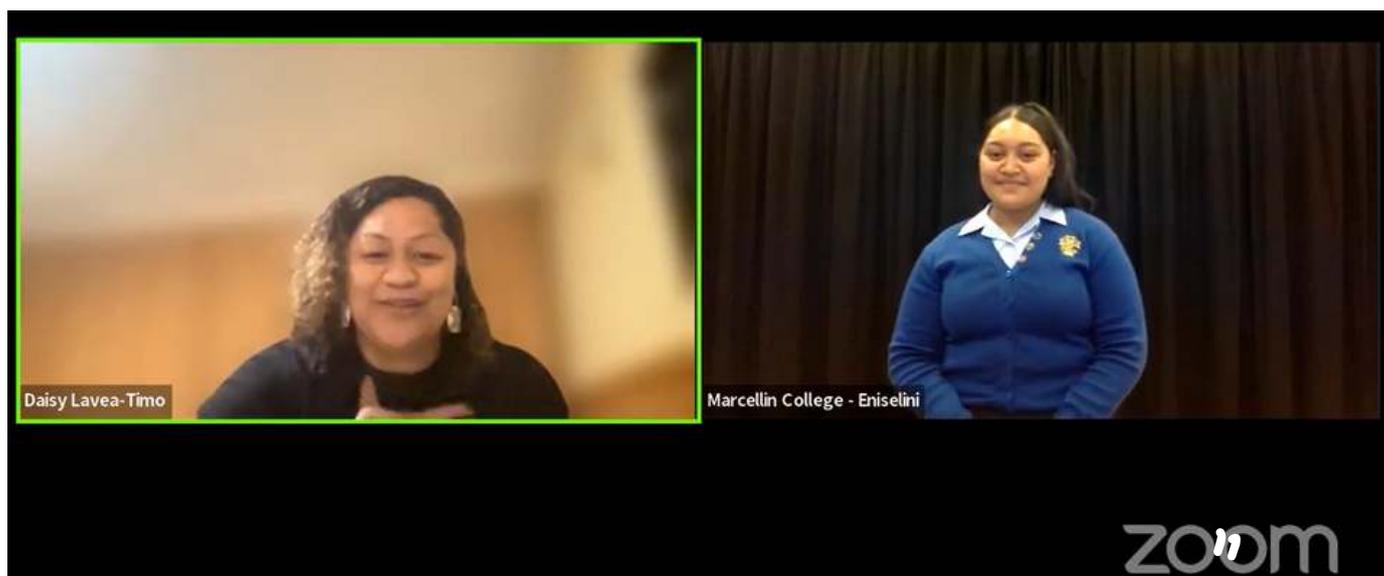
“ The platforms Action Education provide give people a chance to find  
their voice,  
to slay the giants in their lives,  
to birth creative identity within ourselves. ”

# Adapting to Change

Through out the last 2 years Action Ed has done our best to adjust our programming in order to best meet the needs of our community. With so many opportunities being cancelled for rangatahi during the COVID era, we have always worked hard to ensure that Word-The Front Line can continue, even when the venue and parameters need to shift. Learning to pivot during this time has given us an incredibly strong framework for how to adjust and meet the needs of our community both safely and smoothly.

This can look like full capacity live events, to completely online poetry slams that have drawn thousands of participants from across the world, or even hybrid events.

We have outlined some of these procedures within this document but will also notify all participants of changes to the competition immediately if we need to pivot due to traffic light settings or lockdowns.



“ These days. because of covid there is so much disconnection, and so much isolation. Action Ed has stepped up despite all the challenges. They've never stopped making everyone feel connected and together and still heard. Despite all of the obstacles towards making that happen. Which I think is something really special. ”

-Abby Irwin, Word-The Front Line alumna.

# ***The Heart***

## **IT'S ALL ABOUT THEM**

WORD - The Front Line' was birthed out of a realization that our youth need an avenue where they can be heard; express their views and share their stories, while being supported in an environment that promotes their personal growth. We also wanted to do this in a way that brings the youth and their communities together to support and celebrate their experience.

# ***Outcomes***

## ***1. Engaging Our Youth***

The target of our first outcome is to engage the youth of Auckland (and other cities in years to come) in a way that is fun, educational, informative and inspiring. 'WORD - The Front Line' will provide a series of workshops for qualifying schools leading up to the main event. These will be set up to facilitate young people exploring their creative ability and to help develop their literary skills. The leadership principles built into this programme will ensure youth take away personal life tools to support them in the future whatever their chosen path. From the young writers taking part, to their peers in the audience, we hope to encourage a love of language, communication and engagement with literature.



## ***2. Engaging Our Community***

The target for our second outcome is to engage our community with Spoken Word through the voices of our own young people. To build a stronger community we need to bridge the divide between generations, communication is a key factor in this. 'WORD - The Front Line' attracts the young and old to a stage where this powerful dialogue of connection begins. A platform where young people courageously confront their truth and share their journey in the creative expression of spoken word poetry.

# ***Better Together***

## **AGENTS OF CHANGE**

Our young people should know that their city wants to see them as individuals confident and thriving. 'WORD - The Front Line' exists for this purpose. But it will take a collaborative effort from community leaders to see this vision get off the ground successfully. Your support of this exciting programme is invaluable. WORD - The Front Line activates leadership beyond the stage where they are encouraged to engage in their communities and strengthen their leadership skills in this process.



## ***QUOTES FROM STUDENTS***

- "WORD taught me that we matter and we deserve to be heard."

- "I really liked that this brought teens around the same age and made it a safe space where we could freely talk about anything. The hosts of the program were welcoming and kind."

- "Everything that Action Education has taught me, I will hold on to."

- "I wish I took this sooner."

- "I really love how the program operates – how we get to show everyone what our poetry is like before getting to delve into different aspects of poetry. I also really love the mentor program and how we get to work with amazing poets who help us grow."

- "I learnt to remove all stereotypes about sexuality, race, age etc. This goes beyond poetry, it's about being wise with our words"

- "We are world changers in the making"

# *Registrations*

## **TEAMS**

Each school can put forward up to 2 teams through to the regional heats. Each team must have a minimum of 4 and maximum of 6 poets, and all team members must be attending the same high school. It is possible for 2 teams from the same school to make it through, We saw this for the first time in 2019 from De La Salle College. If your team makes it through regional heats please know there are strict guidelines regarding team members dropping out and being replaced, whereby no more than half of the original team may be replaced. If this happens, please contact us as soon as possible.

## **REGISTRATION**

To register your team(s), please complete the online registration form at our website [www.actioneducation.co.nz](http://www.actioneducation.co.nz). All NORTHWEST & CENTRAL Teams must submit their registrations by Monday the 16th of May. All SOUTH EAST teams must submit their registrations by 6PM Monday the 23rd of May.

Once you have submitted your registration form you will receive an email confirming your registration and the details of which regional heat you will be participating in. Please make sure your team has thoroughly read through this pack BEFORE registering your team to compete. It is important that your whole team is aware of the dates for the entire programme (workshops, semi-finals, the Grand Slam) to make sure team member can commit should they make it through.

## **PREPARING FOR REGIONAL HEATS**

In order to help teams prepare for regional heats, especially those who have not participated in the programme before, we offer each school 2 free workshops. These presentations and workshops can be extremely helpful to advertise the programme, gather interest, introduce students to spoken word poetry, answer questions, and support them to work on their poems before regional heats. We can also help your school set up an ongoing spoken word poetry club. Please note that teams do not need experience in order to be a part of the programme. Additional workshops can also be arranged at a cost. **We are also available to meet with your teams online at anytime.**

If you are wanting to organise a workshop for your team(s) please be sure to get in touch as soon as possible as our calendars fill up fast.

# ***Regional Heats***

## **REGIONAL HEATS STRUCTURE**

There will be 2 days of Regional Heats with times and dates listed below. Once you are registered you will receive confirmation of which heat your team(s) will be competing in. If you are unable to make your scheduled date please let us know as soon as possible so we have enough time to try and move you. Please note there are rules about competing outside of your region (please see 'Advancing Teams' for more information).

Each day will have 2 heats. The first heat will run from 10am-12pm, the second will run from 1-3pm. Prior to the heats (once registrations have closed) we will do a draw to determine which teams will be participating in each bout, and all teams will be notified. We suggest keeping the entire day free to make sure your team is available for both bouts. You are only required to be there for your bout, but are welcome to be there for both. Your team must be onsite 15 minutes prior to your bout starting to register. Once all teams have arrived the order will be drawn. Rules for the Regional Heats are on the next page.



## ***Regional Heats***

**NW & CENTRAL**

**Sat 21 May**

**10AM - 4PM**

**TAPAC**

**SOUTH & EAST**

**Sat 28 May**

**10AM - PM**

**MANGERE MEMORIAL  
HALL**

## JUDGING CRITERIA - REGIONALS

Poems do not need to be memorized. Regional heats are not about performance but more about the writing ability and content of the poem. Each poem will be judged on the following:

**Writing Technique** - This is their ability to write a poem. The structure. The use of poetic devices such as metaphor, simile, alliteration etc. How does it sound? Does it sound good? Can you follow it?

**Uniqueness** - The uniqueness of the story or message which is being portrayed. Is there something about the poet which stands out, grabs your attention or captures your interest?

**Content** - This is about impact. How well were you able to understand their message? How did it resonate? Did it move you? Did it make an impact?

## RULES FOR REGIONAL HEATS

For all rules please see the rule book at [actioneducation.co.nz](http://actioneducation.co.nz)

1. Each team is required to perform 3 poems
2. Poets must perform their own work and cannot read a poem on behalf of someone else. Plagiarised material will result in disqualification
3. At least 3 poets from each team must perform at regional heats. Teams can perform solos, duets, or group pieces. Although duets and group pieces are not necessary for regional heats, it will be for teams that advance to Semi-Finals and Grand Slam
4. Poems do not need to be memorised at this stage of the competition
5. Each poem should be between 1-4 minutes. Poems outside of this time frame will not receive any penalties, but may be difficult to judge if they are too long or too short.
6. No accompaniment by sound, props, or costume is allowed.

## ADVANCING TEAMS

In total, 14 teams will be advancing to the next stage of the competition.

6 teams from each regional heat will be selected to advance. Please note that at least 5 of the teams teams selected from each day of heats must be from those regions (Northwest, Central, and South & East). For teams who are unable to make their assigned heat and are therefore competing outside of their school's region, there will only be one spot up for grabs. Therefore it is in your best interest to compete at your own regional heat.

On top of the 12 teams from the Regional Heats we will also be choosing an additional 2 teams who have not competed in WORD - The Front Line over the last two years, who we believe have great potential and would benefit highly from the competition.

The teams who are advancing will be announced via our WORD - The Front Line Facebook page after all regional heats have been completed and will receive further information about the competition.

# *Advancing Teams*

## **WORKSHOPS**

All team members are expected to attend both workshops and the Semi-Finals. If your school requires notice in order for your team to participate please make sure to let them know as soon as possible. There are only 2 weeks between the announcement of which schools have made it through and the first workshop which is an all day event,

We suggest that if your team does make it through that you notify your school as soon as possible. If your school needs more than 2 weeks' notice we suggest that you notify them prior to auditions in case your team make it through they will be required to participate.



## **PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES**

One thing that we highly recommend for competing teams is to take a stage BEFORE the slam. For many poets, Word - The Front Line will be the first time they have performed. Competing poets should try to get as much stage time as possible before the Semi-Finals.

Through-out the year there are multiple opportunities for poets to perform, whether in person OR online. Stand Up Poetry Open Mic, Verses & Vibes, or SUP Slam are just some of the events that we run outside of Word on a regular basis.

## **THE SLAM**

After attending the workshops all teams will participate in 2 Semi Finals Heat each. The top 3 teams from each heat will progress to the 2021 WTFL Grand Slam.

**IMPORTANT:** For both returning and new teams. Every year we reshape and recharge the rules of competition better fit the needs of our dynamic community of young poets. PLEASE REFER to the official **WTFL 2022 Rule Book** so that you fully understand the competition.

# Calendar

| Event                       | Date                | Time           | Venue                                |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Teachers Night              | Tue 15th Mar        | 6PM            | ONLINE                               |
| NW & Central Regional Heats | Sat 21st May        | 10AM-4PM       | TAPAC                                |
| South & East Regional Heats | Sat 28th May        | 10AM-4PM       | Mangere Memorial Hall                |
| Advancing Teams Announced   | Mon 30th May        | 5PM            | Action Education Facebook Page       |
| Workshop # 1                | Sat 18th June       | 10AM-4PM       | Te Puea Memorial Marae               |
| Workshop # 2                | Sat 6th-Sun 7th Aug | Overnight Camp | Dependent Upon Traffic Light Setting |
| Workshop # 2                | Sat 6th Aug         | 10AM-4PM       | Dependent Upon Traffic Light Setting |
| Semi Finals Heat #1         | Sat 27th Aug        | 1PM-4PM        | Auckland Live                        |
| Semi Finals Heat #2         | Sat 3rd Sept        | 1PM-4PM        | Auckland Live                        |
| Grand Slam                  | Sat. 24th Sept      | 7PM            | Auckland Live                        |

\*Traffic Light Green Setting

\*Traffic Light Green Setting

# Contact Us

## WHO ARE WE?

Action Education is a non-profit organisation set up to engage and empower young people through creative and action based methods. South Auckland Poets Collective are a group of storytellers with a passion for using Spoken Word to engage and inspire the youth of Aotearoa. Together we form a dynamic team of youth workers, artists, poets, educators, and mentors that care about the community and drawing out the leadership potential in young people.



For all questions about WORD - The Front Line or Action Education, and for all booking inquiries please email us at [info@actioneducation.co.nz](mailto:info@actioneducation.co.nz)

Check out our website for more information about our organisation and what we do at [www.actioneducation.co.nz](http://www.actioneducation.co.nz)

Instagram - [actioneducationnz](https://www.instagram.com/actioneducationnz)

Facebook - [www.facebook.com/actioneducationinc](https://www.facebook.com/actioneducationinc)

YouTube - [Action Education](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

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Auckland

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