

DISCOVERED Competition 2025

Terms and Conditions

Discovered (supporting singers since 2011), is a professional development program and competition series for singers and singer/songwriters aged 7yrs – 24yrs. Comprised of a contest, a professional development program and performance opportunities, Discovered is part of the Creative Engineers Program.

Discovered is a platform that provides feedback and professional development for young people, who aspire to follow their dreams on stage to a live audience. It is a pathway for many singers who have been supported and mentored through the program by organisations such as Musicians Making a Difference (MMAD), Gina Jeffreys (Australian Country Singer), Rod McCormack (Musician and Music Producer), to then progress regionally (Tamworth Music Festival and Byron Bay Busking Festival), onto the national arena (The Voice and Australia's Got Talent), with some former entrants now finding their way internationally.

Competition events and professional development workshops will be held at The Hub Erina Youth Entertainment Venue, North South Road, Erina Fair Shopping Centre, Erina. All events held in the venue, will be broadcast (livestreamed) onto social media.

The competition component is comprised of a series of rounds, with four (4) heats, followed by two (2) semi-finals, one (1) final competitive event, followed by a combined Showcase event, to announce and award winners of both Discovered and Battle of the Bands competitions. The competition is progressive with only selected participants advancing through the rounds.

The professional development component is comprised of opportunities throughout the competition (provided as free workshops); and verbal feedback by the panel of judges, allowing performers to develop as they progress through the program.

The project has a commitment to nurturing artistic growth and fostering a community of aspiring artists.

Dedicated to professional development and invaluable performance opportunities the program has been strategically scheduled in line with key events and the allows flexibility to offer additional support as new opportunities arise.

The program is supported with various pathways to enter the competition, including the Discovered Voices Youth Choir and the Music Enrichment school program.

The Discovered Voices Youth Choir supports entrants (aged 7-14 years) to build their confidence performing and develop their vocal ability, providing free weekly group singing sessions. The singing group prepare for performances at various community events and eisteddfods.

Beyond the program series, opportunities are presented as part of the Music Pathways Program to increase participants exposure, broaden their audience base and provide opportunities within the industry with performance opportunities. Opportunities include (not limited to) events such as Lakes Festival, New Years Eve, Australia Day and Central Coast Youth Week Awards.

Table of Contents Index Guide

To explore this document online, simply click on the indexed term for further details.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Eligibility 2. How To Enter Competition 3. Entry Requirements 4. Video Recordings, footage, photographs and licences 5. Judging of the Competition 6. Awarding Winner 6.4 DISCOVERED Competition Prizes 7. Complaints 8. Further Information 	<p>Key Details</p> <p>Privacy Notification</p> <p>Attachment 1: Competition Consent Form (under 18)</p> <p>Attachment 2: Competition Consent Form (18-24yrs)</p> <p>Attachment 3: Photo and Digital Consent and Release Form</p> <p>Attachment 4: PRIZE SIGN OFF</p>
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Key Details

Registrations Open	14 April	Enter Online
Registrations Close	06 June	
Heat one (1)	02 May	<p style="text-align: center;">Venue</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Hub Erina Youth Entertainment Venue.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">North South Rd. Erina Fair.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5.30pm: Participant Arrival - 6:45pm Audience Arrival - 7pm Event Start
Heat two (2)	16 May	
Heat three (3)	30 May	
Heat four (4)	20 June	
Semi-final one (1)	04 July	
Semi-final two (2)	11 July	
Final	01 August	
Creative Engineers Showcase Event and Awards Night	12 September	Location: TBA

Refer to Clause 2 'How to Enter the Competition' for details on how to enter the DISCOVERED program.

All information on how to enter this competition forms part of these terms and conditions. Entry into this competition is deemed acceptance of these terms and conditions.

This competition is run by Central Coast Council ('Council') ABN: 73 149 644 003 of 2 Hely St Wyong. NSW 2259 in-conjunction with Gina Jeffreys Academy of Music (GJAM), Damien Gerard Studios, MAHERAW Vocal Coaching, Musicians Making a Difference (MMAD), Central Coast Music and Arts Inc and The Skill Engineer Inc.

The Council reserves the right at any time to disqualify any individual who the Council reasonably believes has breached any of the terms and conditions or engaged in any unlawful or other improper conduct calculated to jeopardise the fair and proper conduct of the competition or the reputation of the Council.

Privacy Notification

Some of the information that you are asked to provide on this form is personal information, such as your name and contact information. This information is being collected for the purpose of identification; judgement; communication in relation to; and promotion of this entry in Discovered professional development program competition.

1. Eligibility

1.1 Entry is open to:

- a) Singers aged 7 - 24 years
- b) Live, study or work in the Central Coast region
- c) Australian citizens or permanent resident of Australia
- d) Unsigned singer/songwriters and vocalists.

1.2 The total competition is comprised of four (4) divisions. The competition has three (3) entry divisions, an additional division eMergent Sounds is open for singer-songwriters entering the Discovered competition.

- a) Kid Division: 7-12 years
- b) Teen Division: 13-17 years
- c) Youth Division: 18-24 years
- d) eMergent Sounds Division: 7-24years (Open to Discovered Singer-Songwriters entrants).
- e) In the instance where an entrant has a birthday during the period of competition, the entrant should select the age division according to how old they are before 4 July 2025.

1.3 Employees of Council and their immediate families are eligible to enter Council competitions where there is independence in the judging (e.g., independent panel members, entries are anonymous etc.) or a random judging process (e.g., barrel draw). Outside of these conditions, Directors must approve the conditions.

1.4 Entrants under the age of 18 must have the consent of their parent or legal guardian to enter.

- a) Entrants under the age of 18 are required to provide proof of consent from a parent or legal guardian with the signed 'Under 18' consent form (Attachment 1) and email through before participation.

1.5 Entrants over the age of 18 must sign their consent to enter (Attachment 2) and email through before participation.

1.6 Entry to the competition is free.

1.7 Competition entry must be submitted between **14 April** and **6 June 2025** by **11.59pm** Australian Eastern Standard Time.

- a) Entries submitted after the specified dates will not be accepted.
- b) Short-listing of entries may be undertaken dependant on entry numbers prior to the heats.

2. How To Enter Competition

2.1 Completed entry forms may only be submitted online.

- a) Entrants register online
- b) Applicants receive a confirmation email to confirm receipt of their entry and with information of the next steps to take.

2.2 Allow up to 14 days following registration to receive an email confirmation to participate in the Competition.

- a) Entrants will need to confirm their acceptance or non-acceptance within seven (7) days
- b) Entrants will receive documentation that must be completed and returned.

2.3 The confirmation email will include an electronic copy of the Discovered Terms and Conditions and Central Coast Council Digital Media Consent forms for completion; and a link to complete the entrant's performance details.

- a) Return signed and completed forms seven (7) days prior to the assigned heat via the link provided
- b) A copy of photo identification proof of their birth date (School ID / License) may be requested.

2.4 eMergent Sounds Division Entry

- a) Singer-songwriters who choose to enter their original song into the eMergent Sounds Division, submit their original songs online as mp3 files via the link provided with the Discovered competition confirmation email.
- b) Uploaded files accepted up until the 31 July 2025.
- c) Only original songs that have been performed across the current Discovered competition may be submitted.

2.5 Council does not accept any responsibility for any late or lost entries, or any other entries not properly received.

2.6 Council has absolute discretion; and reserves all rights; to verify the validity of all entries to the Discovered competition, and to disqualify any entrant who tampers with the entry process or who submits an entry that is deemed to not be in accordance with these terms and conditions.

2.7 Council will not be liable for any damages or loss suffered as a result of entry to the Discovered competition.

2.8 Each entrant releases, and hereby indemnifies to the full extent permitted by law, Council, its employees, agents and assigns, from any and all liability which may arise from and/or all claims in connection with their entry, participation or the prize in the Discovered competition.

2.9 Council may cancel or vary the competition at any time. Council will not be responsible for any loss or costs incurred by the entrant or businesses in relation to such cancellation or variation.

3. Entry Requirements

3.1 Entries must be complete.

3.2 All entries must be received within the competition period as outlined above.

3.3 Song selection. Entrants should select their repertoire in which they are already proficient.

- a) Entrant to sing two (2) songs in their heat.
- b) Each song should be between three (3) and five (5) minutes.
- c) Entrant to sing two (2) songs in their semi-final.
- d) At least one (1) song must be different to the previously performed heat.
- e) Entrant to sing two (2) songs in the final event.
- f) Song selection is to be different to previously performed by the entrant in the heat and semi-final.
- g) Entrant to sing one song at the Creative Engineers Showcase event.
- h) Song selection for the Showcase must be either one of the songs sung at the final event.
- i) Entrants must not perform songs that contain any offensive, defamatory, or discriminatory content.

- j) It is Council's absolute discretion to deem an entry unsuitable.

3.4 Music played as part of the competition must either be provided as a legally purchased and licensed backing track or performed live with an instrument and supplied as:

- a) File formats: MP3 or a WAV file.
- b) Label: Entrant's 'Full Name', 'Song Title' and song order number (e.g., John Smith, Breathe, Song 2).
- c) Licensed backing tracks to be provided by one of the following methods:

Note this is in order of preference:

- i. Uploaded to the online portal (link provided via email)
- ii. Email attachment
- iii. USB device on the night of the event. USB must be labelled with the Entrant's full name.
- d) In the instance where an accompanist is required:
 - i. The accompanist's details must be noted at the time of confirming details
 - ii. The accompanist must provide a signed copy of the Council's digital media consent form must be returned, completed.

3.5 Council will try and provide all the necessary sound equipment for each event held in the Hub Erina Youth Entertainment Venue.

- a) Each entrant should advise as to what equipment they will need for their venue performance in the technical specification section provided with the event RSVP confirmation.
- b) Council has the following resources available for use during Discovered performances:
 - i. Wireless microphones and covers
 - ii. Microphone stands
 - iii. KORG KROME WORKSTATION 88 KEY and pedal
 - iv. Acoustic guitar
 - v. Seat/stool
 - vi. Backline and AV engineer.
- c) Each entrant is expected to provide their required musical equipment inclusive of capo, spare strings, leads, music stand and/ or licenced backing tracks

3.6 Having an audience to connect to is a pivotal moment in a performer's artistic work. Entrants are encouraged to develop their audience base to support all performers in the program.

- a) Guests must book online.
- b) A booking link for audience reservations will be provided to entrants in their confirmation email.

3.7 The First Prize recipient of previous Discovered competitions cannot submit to re-enter the Discovered competition.

- a) Exceptions to Clause 3.7
 - i. The First Prize recipient in the Kids Division (7-12years) and Teen Division (13-17yrs) may submit an entry into the successional age division, once eligible to enter.
 - ii. The First Place award was shared amongst two (2) recipients.

3.8 Emergent Sounds Division entry requirements

- a) Original songs entered in the eMergent Sounds Division must be performed as part of the current Discovered competition.
- b) As part of the competition, the entrant agrees to share the competition with their social media networks to maximise engagement with the voting process.
- c) By entering the competition, the entrant warrants to Council in respect of each song submitted in this competition that:
 - i. They are the author or co-author of the song.
 - ii. They own the copyright in the song and is entitled to submit the musical work as part of and for the purposes of this competition.
 - iii. The song does not infringe the rights of any third party, including copyright and all the efforts have been taken to avoid any such infringement.
 - iv. They have obtained written permission from any co-writer or publisher controlling any rights in the entered song.
 - v. The song is not offensive, inappropriate, defamatory, or is otherwise not against the law.

3.9 By entering the competition entrants agree to comply with the Terms and Conditions. If a competitor violates the Terms and Conditions, Council reserves the right to disqualify them from the competition.

4. Recordings, footage, photographs and licences

4.1 Digital Media Consent

- a) Each entrant consents to Council uploading recordings onto selected platforms as part of the competition; taking photographs and/or video footage of the entrant for the purpose of the competition.
- b) Photo and Digital Consent Release Form (Attachment 3) must be completed and returned as per Clause 2.2 and 2.3.

4.2 It is a condition of the competition that all broadcast and television rights of a competitor's performance in any stage of the competition are freely available to Council.

4.3 Competition performances as recorded live at the Council venues may be uploaded online by Council.

4.4 Each entrant consents, and provides an irrevocable licence, to Council using and publishing, at its discretion, their entry, including the name, and age of the entrant; and any photographs and/or video footage of the entrant for the purpose of the Discovered competition, including but not limited to:

- a) Uploading of the entry on to the Council website: www.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/, social media platforms and affiliated sponsors website or social media platforms.
- b) Promotion of the Discovered competition in the media, both print and online
- c) Display and promotion at any event associated with the Discovered competition, including the Showcase event / Workshops; and
- d) Other non-commercial activities related to the functions of Council.

4.5 On all the above occasions, Council will credit the entrant, where possible.

4.6 Each entrant agrees that Council will not provide any financial compensation, in relation to any use of their entry or any photographs or video footage of the entrant.

4.7 Each entrant declares that they will not seek now or at any future time any financial compensation from Council in relation to any use of this entry or any photographs or video footage of the entrant.

5. Judging of the Competition

5.1 Judging is conducted by a judges panel.

- a) The judges panel is comprised of one (1) Council staff member and two (2) to three (3) Sponsor representatives across the heats and semi-finals.
- b) The judges panel is comprised of one (1) Council staff member and representatives from five (5) Sponsors at the final event, to decide the competition winners.

5.2 Judging criteria against which entries will be evaluated, include but are not limited to the following points:

- **Vocal Ability:** Range, Falsetto, Shifting, Tune
- **Originality:** Arrangement of song and interpretation
- **Song Choice:** Appropriate choice for the singer
- **Technical/Instrumental Handling:** Musicianship- If playing an instrument, do they play it well? Are they able to recover from any incidental problems, tech issues?
- **Stage Presence/Online Performance:** Personality, Poise, Confidence, Professionalism, Ability to connect with an audience.

5.3 Competition Progression

- a) 24 entrants progress to the semi-final events.
- b) 12 places are available per semi-final event.
- c) 12 entrants progress to the final event and Creative Engineers Showcase and Awards night.

5.4 Judging Process

- a) Evaluation is conducted using a points system for standalone performances, allowing entrants to advance from heats to semi-finals and ultimately to the final event.
- b) The competition prize winnings are determined by the judges panel following the final event.
- c) Acts achieving the highest scores and/or receiving the most favourable feedback are selected with consideration given to the prizes offered in the competition.
- d) The decisions made by the judging panel regarding any aspect of the competition are final and binding for every entrant.
- e) There will be no correspondence entered into regarding any decision made by the judging panel.

5.5 eMergent Sounds Division Judging and Selection Process

- a) The panel of appointed judges will assess all eligible original song submissions and shortlist selected entries for inclusion in an official **eMergent Sounds Online Playlist**.
- b) Artists' names will be removed for the shortlist process.
- c) The judging panel will select one (1) winner from the shortlisted Discovered entries, and one (1) winner from the shortlisted Battle of the Bands entries.

5.6 The winning song will be determined based on the **eMergent Sounds** original song criteria:

- a) Lyrics
- b) Melody
- c) Arrangement
- d) Overall likeability

5.7 Online Public Voting

- a) Following the Creative Engineers Showcase event, shortlisted entries that form the **eMergent Sounds Online Playlist** will be made public for an online voting period with artists' names included.
- b) Online voting will open on 19 September 2025 and close on 19 October 2025 at 11.59pm Australian Eastern Standard Time.

5.8 Vinyl Album Selection

- a) The online songs receiving the highest number of public votes will be selected for inclusion on a limited-edition vinyl album, to be released as part of the Youth Week 2026 celebrations.
- b) The decisions of the judging in relation to any aspect of the eMergent Sounds song competition will be final and binding upon every entrant who enters the Competition. No correspondence regarding any decision of the judging will be entered into.

6. Awarding Winner

6.1 Announcing Winners

- a) Winners' will be announced and awarded at a combined showcase event with finalists from the Discovered and Battle of the Bands competitions.
- b) Following the awards night, names will be published on Council's website.

6.2 Prize Acceptance

- a) Is conditional on signing of Council's release form (Attachment 1).
- b) Prize recipients may be invited to perform as a guest in up to two events (within 12-18months of accepting the prize) as organised by Council's Youth Services Team as a condition of accepting the prize awarded.
- c) If the prize remains unclaimed for three (3) months from the time notice is given, Council will have the right to determine another prize recipient, if deemed appropriate.

6.3 Claiming Prizes

- a) To claim the prize, the winner(s) must contact the relevant Sponsor to redeem their awarded prize.
- b) It is the responsibility of both the winner(s) and Sponsor to negotiate a suitable time to book an appointment for the awarded prize.
- c) Prizes must be redeemed within six (6) months of the winner being notified.
- d) The prizes are non-transferable and not exchangeable. Prizes cannot be transferred or on-sold at a premium, offered as a prize or inducement, packaged or otherwise used for advertising, promotional or other commercial purposes. (If tickets) The Promoter reserves the right to refuse admission to the bearer of any prize sold or otherwise provided or distributed in breach of this condition.

6.4 DISCOVERED Competition Prizes

Awards	Sponsored by Central Coast Council	
Kids Division (7-12yrs)	1 st Prize	\$500
Teen Division (13-17yrs)	1 st Prize	\$500
Youth Division (18-24yrs)	1 st Prize	\$2,000
	2 nd Prize	\$1000
	3 rd prize	\$750
eMergent Sounds Division (7-24yrs)	1 st Prize	\$500
Open (7-24yrs)	Inspiration Award	\$250
Awards Prize Pool Value		\$5,500

Prize Details	Sponsored by	
Merchandise Pack, includes: – A selection of branded items such as apparel, accessories, and/or promotional materials. Exact contents of the pack may vary and are subject to availability at the time of fulfilment.	Musicians Making a Difference	\$100
Vocal Development Package, includes: – One (1) performance evaluation – One (1) personalised vocal assessment – One (1) follow up vocal coaching sessions.	Maheraw Vocal Coaching	\$250
Vocal Development Package, includes: – One (1) performance evaluation – One (1) personalised vocal assessment – One (1) follow up vocal coaching sessions.	Maheraw Vocal Coaching	\$250
Artist Development Session, includes: – One (1) 90-minute artist mentor session	Central Coast Music & Arts	\$250
Songwriting Development Session, includes: – One (1) exclusive songwriters workshop.	Gina Jeffreys Academy of Music	\$500
Content Creation Package (Electronic Press Kit), includes: – One (1) photoshoot – One (1) custom 60-90second video reel.	The Skill Engineer	\$500
Studio Recording or Mixing Package, includes: – The prize may be used for a vocal recording session, song mixing, or a combination of both – depending on the artist's needs and goals.	Damien Gerard Studios	\$1,000
Vocal Development Package – One (1) 12-month scholarship vocal coaching – One (1) 12-month scholarship song writers course	Gina Jeffreys Academy of Music	\$3,500
Professional Development Prize Pool Value		\$6350

7. Complaints

7.1 Procedure for lodging, addressing and resolving complaints.

- a) If Council receives a complaint from a person/s featured in an entry, or a complaint about the entry, Council may reject / remove the entry from the competition at its absolute discretion.
- b) All complaints must be received in writing with contact details.
- c) No correspondence will be entered in relation to any decision of Council in relation to the Competition.

8. Further Information

8.1 If you require further information, please email jennifer.dias@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au

Attachment 1: Competition Consent Form (under 18)

Parent/Guardian Consent & Declaration for DISCOVERED Competition

This section is only required to be completed where the entrant is under the age of 18.

1. I declare that I am the parent/guardian of the entrant.
2. I consent to the entrant entering and participating in the Competition.
3. I have read and agree to the terms and conditions of the Competition.
4. I declare that this entry has been submitted in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Competition.

Name: _____

Phone / Email: _____

Relationship to the Entrant: _____

Entrant's Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Attachment 2: Competition Consent Form (18-24yrs)

Participant Consent & Declaration for DISCOVERED Competition

This section is required to be completed where the entrant is 18 years of age and older.

1. I consent to entering and participating in the Competition.
2. I have read and agree to the terms and conditions of the Competition.
3. I declare that this entry has been submitted in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Competition.

Name: _____

Phone / Email: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Attachment 3: Photo and Digital Consent and Release Form

Public – Photo and Digital Consent and Release Form

Date:	
Project name & location:	Discovered
Photographer's name:	
Description of photo or subject:	
This form relates to image(s): <small>Photographer to complete</small>	

Privacy Notification:

Some of the information you provide on this form is your personal information, including for example your name, signature and contact information. This information is being collected by Council for the purpose of ensuring that you have provided consent to Council to take and use photographs and video footage of you at an event. The information will be accessible by Council staff. It is voluntary for you to provide your personal information on this form, however if you do not provide the information, Council may not accept that you have provided legitimate consent. You may apply to access or amend the personal information provided on this form at any time.

Central Coast Council uses photographs and video footage of the public on a regular basis to promote services, events and community activities, for both print and online media.

By signing this form:

1. You understand that participation in any photography and video recording undertaken by Central Coast Council at the event or location is voluntary.
2. You consent to Central Coast Council taking photographs and/or video footage of you at the event.
3. You consent to Central Coast Council using and publishing (for example, both in print and online media) any photographs and/or video footage taken of you at the event or location, for the purpose of promoting Council services, events and community activities now and at any stage in the future.
4. You understand that Central Coast Council will not provide any financial compensation to you for participation in any photography and/or video recording undertaken by Central Coast Council at the event or location; and/or for any use of any photographs and/or video footage of you from the event or location.
5. You declare that you will not seek now and/or at any future time, any financial compensation from Central Coast Council in relation to participation in any photography and/or video footage undertaken by Central Coast Council at the event or location; and/or any use of any photographs and/or video footage of you from the event or location.
6. You understand that you may apply for access to any photographs and/or video footage resulting from the event or location that involves you.

Child's Name & Age (if relevant)		Age:
Adult's Name:		
Contact Email:		
Contact Phone:		
Signature:		

Attachment 4: PRIZE SIGN OFF

DISCOVERED COMPETITION

I _____ of _____ hereby confirm I have received
the following _____ prize for my
winning entry in the DISCOVERED Competition.

I agree to perform as a guest in up to two events as organised by Central Coast Council Youth Services (2025-2026) as a condition of accepting the prize awarded.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

If the winning artist is under 18 years of age, please complete the section below.

Parent/Legal Guardian Name: _____

Phone / Email: _____

Relationship to the Entrant: _____

Winning Artist's Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____