

### Assisted Learning Secondary

#### WINNER

**Han Zheng, 15**

Redeemer Baptist School  
North Parramatta, NSW

**The Place I Live**

Ray of sunshine breaks through the cloud,  
Cleaning the wet, dark sky.  
Passing through infinity distances in space,  
Light enters the room and sweeps the dark away.

Birds hold their head up from their nest,  
They sing loud for a bright new day.  
Alarm clock for a thousand souls,  
Some fall back into dreams, but more awake.

Blob of white cloud spreading slowly over the sky,  
An inverted canvas reflects on still water.  
Horizon mixes sea with sky; a blurry brush stroke,  
The wind blows and dries this canvas again and again.

But wherever you are,  
In vibrant city or leisurely country,  
Complicated forest or barren desert,  
This is a beautiful country.

The place I take my daily waking breath,  
The land I am standing on,  
Endless desert to aqua sea  
This is Australia, the place where I live

**Judge Comment:**

A well-observed love letter to the poet's home, laden with precise imagery. Every line sings.