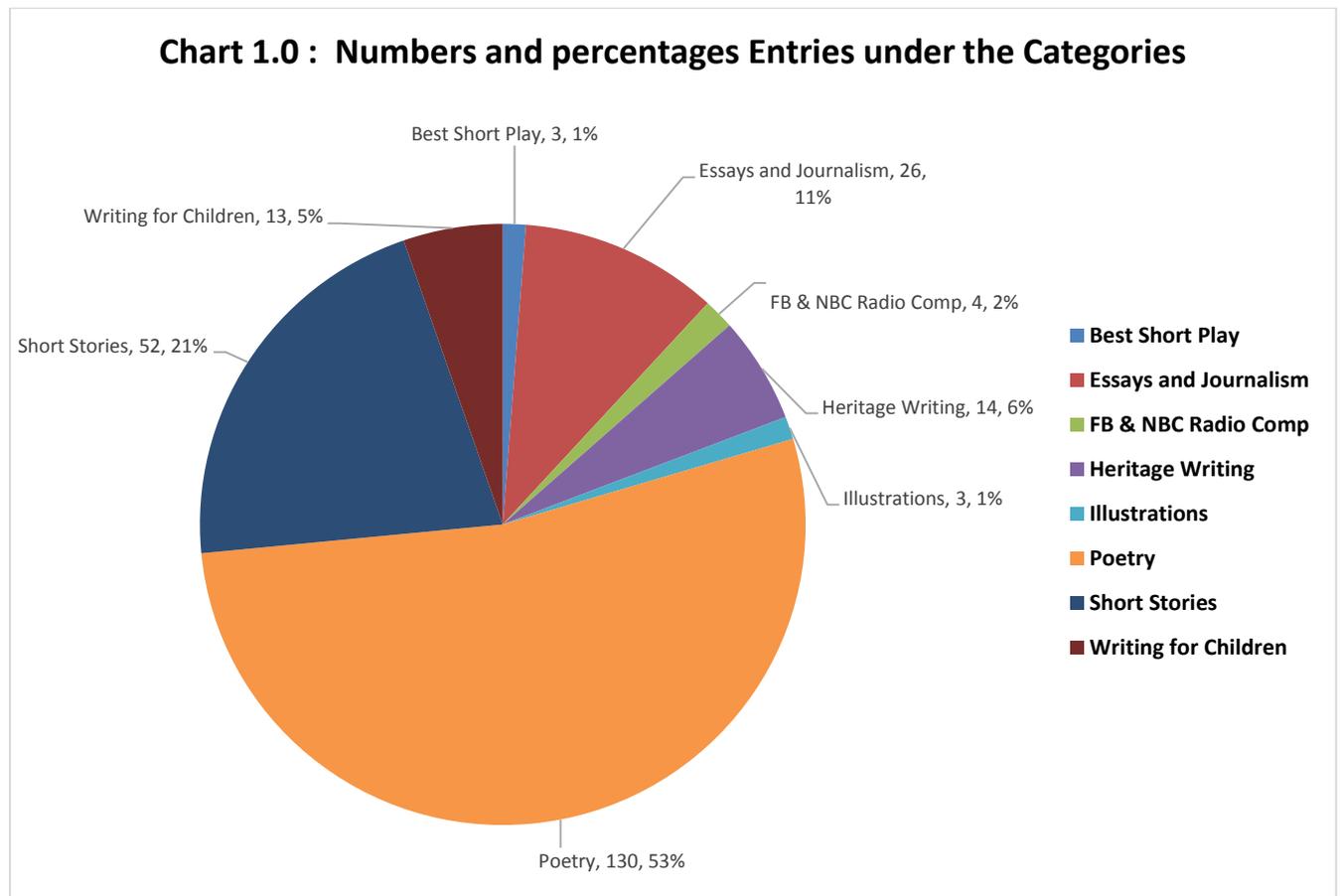


## SPECIAL REPORT OF THE POETRY CATEGORY OF THE 2017 CROCODILE PRIZE COMPETITION

The 2017 Crocodile Prize Competition experienced an interesting year. The Voluntary Organising Committee (VOC) enjoyed another year of learning (this being the second year of organising the prize). The VOC placed emphasis on Publicity and so tried to use different media platforms to conduct awareness so that entries could come from around Papua New Guinea (PNG). Based on the expectations of the VOC, there still have not been enough entries and entrants this year.

The Poetry Category, as usual, received the most number of entries this year. Since the start of the competition, the Poetry Category has always attracted many aspiring PNG writes to share their work. From the 245 entries that were received this year, 130 entries were sent in for the Poetry category. This is fifty-two per cent (52 %) and is a significant statistics considering that the number of the entries being received were from 8 different categories altogether. This says a lot about the interest in this area of writing and literature (*refer to Chart 1.0 below*).

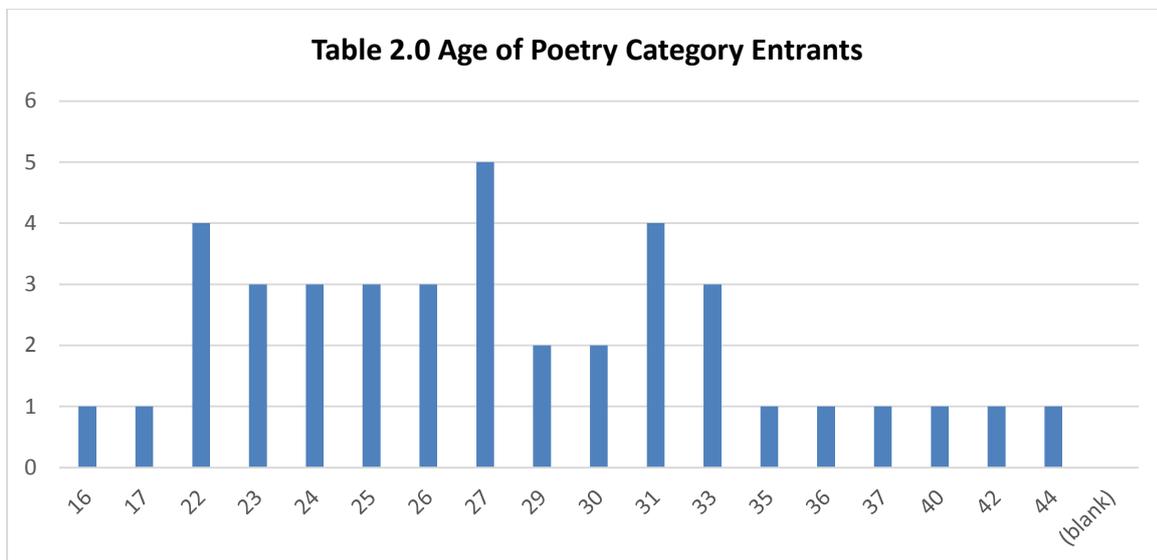


Eighty seven (87) entrants in total sent in entries for the 8 categories of the 2017 Crocodile Prize Competition. The VOC received poetry pieces from a total of 43 entrants for the Poetry Category alone (*Refer Table 1.0*). The breakup by gender shows that of the 43 entrants in total, 23 females (53 %) and 20 males (47 %) sent in the entries. *Table 2.0* shows that the youngest entrant for the Poetry Category this year was 16 years old while the oldest entrant was 44 years old. The spread between 22 and 33 years sent in more poetry than the others. These are obviously younger people who have a lot more to say about their feelings: in especially love, broken hearted and dreams for better life.

The VOC are better informed from such statistics after the last two years of organising the Competition. The VOC can begin to design better strategies to target different audiences to ensure that the competition is better in 2018. The VOC also plans to get people to go back to their roots and write traditional poems, as illustrated by historical chants that were sung in traditional singsings because these are forms of poems. The PNG culture, especially the language and communication part of it, is basically poetic.

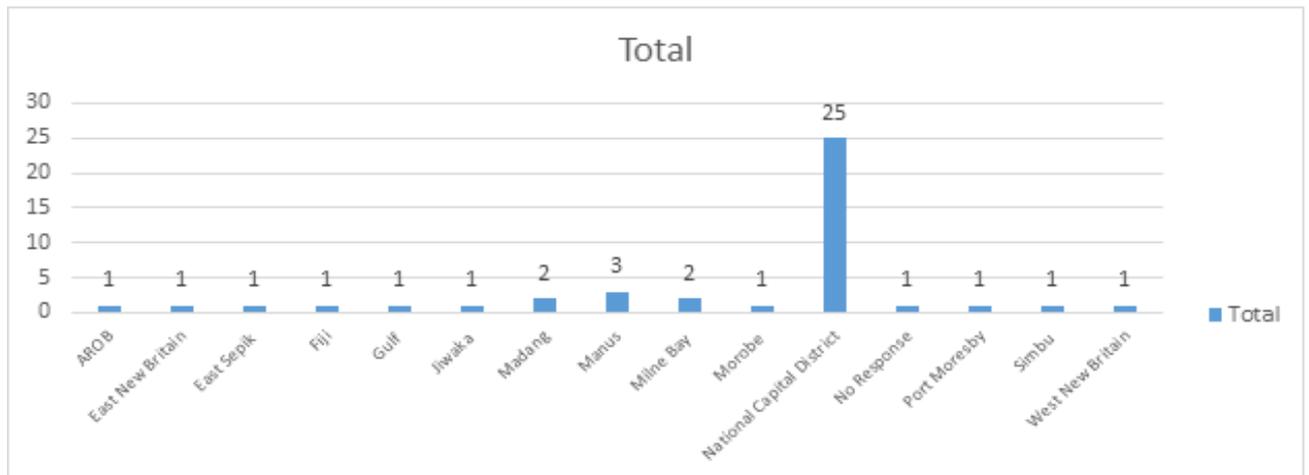
**Table 1.0 Number of Entrants for the Poetry Category**

Row Labels	Gender
Female	23
Male	20
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>43</b>



Twenty-five (25) entries for the Poetry Category were sent in from entrants based in the National Capital District (NCD). Other categories in this year's competition also share this similar statistics. The VOC will do its best to improve on the number of entrants, but important try and ensure that other centres are aware of the competition and people in these centres do make an attempt to send in entries.

Plans are already underway for special events in the area of Poetry and other organisational aspect of the Competition in relation to such high numbers of entries coming in for the Poetry category.



The VOC is grateful to the Kina Securities Limited for the sponsorship of K5, 000.00 towards the Poetry Category. The VOC is especially proud to have this continued association with the KINA Securities because Kina has always been the sponsor of the Poetry category since the inception of the competition. The VOC hopes that the partnership between Kina Securities and the Crocodile Prize can continue, and that together, this partnership can make a difference in terms of increasing literacy levels, and literature in PNG.