

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public and anonymous



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

I strongly support Australia's National Cultural Policy, Revive: A place for every story, a story for every place. The policy provides longoverdue national leadership for the arts and cultural sector and sets a clear, coherent direction for the future.

At its core, Revive rightly recentres artists and cultural workers as professionals. It commits to rebuilding national cultural infrastructure. It places First Nations culture, storytelling and selfdetermination at the forefront. It also seeks to ensure Australian stories are created, shared and valued both domestically and internationally (pm.gov.au). These principles are sound and necessary.

I also support the five interconnected pillars of Revive, particularly their relevance to writers and the literary sector. Literature relies on longterm skill development, fair pay, accessible pathways and strong institutions. Writing does not emerge in isolation. It is supported by networks, mentors, publishers and organisations that enable writers to sustain practice and reach audiences.

However, the success of Revive depends on alignment between Commonwealth and state actions. In Victoria, that alignment is currently breaking down. The defunding of Writers Victoria sits in direct contradiction to the spirit and objectives of the national policy.

Writers Victoria is critical cultural infrastructure. It has supported Victorian writers for decades through professional development, competitions, manuscript assessment, mentorship, industry engagement and advocacy. It provides early career writers with their first professional opportunities. It also supports established writers through paid teaching, mentoring and peer engagement. These functions directly reflect Revive's pillars of centrality of the artist, strong cultural infrastructure, and engaging audiences.

Removing recurrent state funding places this infrastructure at risk. It undermines pathways into writing careers, particularly for writers without financial privilege. It also weakens Victoria's contribution to national literary outcomes, despite Melbourne's status as a UNESCO City of Literature.

If Revive is to achieve its ambitions, statelevel investment must reinforce federal reform. Reinstating stable, recurrent funding to Writers Victoria would realign Victoria with national cultural policy settings. It would strengthen writer development, improve sector equity, and protect longterm literary capacity.

I would also like to see stronger emphasis on entry points for emerging writers. More competitions, awards, residencies and structured career pathways are essential. These opportunities help writers move from aspiration to profession.

Finally, greater support for Australian publishers is vital. Publishers are essential partners in developing writers and bringing Australian stories to readers. A healthy literary ecosystem depends on strong writers centres and strong publishers working together.

Revive provides the right framework. Now it must be matched with consistent, coordinated investment at the state level, including urgent reinstatement of funding to Writers Victoria.