

National Cultural Policy Submission

1468802

Public

Individual

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Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

I have been a customer of my local book shop \,Beaumaris Books\, since it opened 24 years ago. It is an integral part of my life. I would urge the government to include meaningful and effective support for bookshops in the new National Cultural Policy. Our local book shop makes an extremely important contribution to keeping people connected and providing a wealth of reading ideas for young and old . I support the Australian Booksellers Association's call to support local bookshops as cultural infrastructure, creating audience engagement:

- Establish an Australian Independent Bookshop Tax Offset (AIBTO): a refundable tax rebate on core operating expenses including wages, rent, and capital expenditure would deliver significant cultural and economic returns.
- Fund establishment of a skills training and certification programme development and delivery to professionalise the industry, creating recognised career pathways
- Enable accessibility to books and bookshops for all Australians. Study pricing and discounts; examine the feasibility of restrictions on deep discounting of new-release Australian titles, aligned with established European models, and investigate the case for GST reduction or exemption on books, consistent with international precedent.
- Support and expand ongoing grants for events in bookshops including author events, book clubs, workshops, story times, and other community programmes. Grant funding in this space benefits audiences and authors and the wider community.