

National Cultural Policy Submission

1468923

Public

Organisation

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Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

I have worked in the Australian bookselling and publishing industry for over thirty years and have seen incredible changes over that period - both good and bad. I began as an independent bookseller before working in publishing for 20 years and I have been a literary agent for 10 years.

I strongly support placing First Nations storytelling at the centre of our Arts practices but to do that more effectively we need to do more to train First Nations editors, publishers, designers, marketers and publicists. Real support and understanding comes from involving First Nations people at every level and we don't currently have the capacity or tools to do that. We need to fund more internships and identify more opportunities while giving individuals the appropriate cultural support.

Another very simple thing that can be done to sustain all writers and artists is to abolish state and federal taxes on prize and grant money. It seems obscene to be giving much needed and well-earned funds with one hand while taking with another. I can't imagine this loss of revenue would mean much to government coffers but it would be a huge relief to creatives. My client, [REDACTED], is currently being threatened with debt collectors for tax [REDACTED] on prize money [REDACTED]. This is completely abhorrent and corrosive yet it happens all the time.

On a national level we need to raise awareness of the success of our publishing industry. All Australians know of our huge presence in the international film industry but our literature sector has achieved as much if not more. Even in the difficult market conditions we are currently experiencing Australia's publishers are running rings around the US and UK. We are smart, tenacious and adaptable and we can claim some of the greatest writers in the world so let's make some noise about it!