

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public

Individual

Steve MinOn



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

I am a published author of literary fiction. And I am concerned about the diminishing incomes of writers like myself. Advances from publishers are growing smaller and harder to come by, sales of books (particularly literary fiction) are diminishing and there is the growing threat of copyright theft posed by AI and other actors . Published authors of literary fiction have some of the lowest incomes from royalties in the arts world. Meanwhile, there is one sector of the book selling industry that is growing exponentially. That is the online sale of second-hand books. The market is estimated to be worth over \$1billion globally. The segment has grown by approximately 15% in the last year. Australia accounts for over 35% of global second hand book imports. Yet no sale of a second hand book in Australia is tracked back to the publisher or the author. I would like to see a study done of the second hand book market in Australia, designed to track sales via the barcode or the International Standard Book Number (ISBN) with the aim of identifying a possible path to the collection of a nominal royalty for the book's author from each second hand sale of their book. Currently movement of books are tracked and royalties paid by Australian libraries via the excellent Public Lending Rights and Educational Lending Rights schemes. A system that works well and that could be expanded through legislation to be mirrored within the online second hand books market.