

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public and anonymous



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

I write on behalf of [REDACTED], a small independent publisher. Our work contributes to Australian culture by publishing Australian authors, children's books, and contemporary women's fiction.

The central issue for our publishing house is that publishing new Australian books is becoming more expensive. Rising printer costs and rising courier costs are the largest contributors to the pressure affecting our capacity to publish Australian books. [REDACTED] offers many opportunities to debut authors, but the low profit margins from debut publications similarly impact our capacity to publish. Many Australian titles require significant

editorial, production and promotional investment before there is any certainty of return. This makes it harder to take risks on new authors and culturally significant works.

As a small trade publisher, we support an Australian Publishing Fund as part of a National Plan for Books and Reading. Publishing Australian books requires substantial upfront investment in editing, design, production, printing, distribution, marketing and publicity with no guarantee of return. For small publishers, that risk is especially acute. We often publish books of clear cultural value but uncertain commercial prospects: LGBTQIA+ writing, women's contemporary fiction, Australian memoirs, and new voices. These books matter to Australian culture, but they cannot always be sustained by market returns alone.

An Australian Publishing Fund would help publishers like [REDACTED] invest more confidently in Australian authors and ideas. It would support local intellectual property, creative jobs and the wider ecosystem of editors, designers, booksellers, libraries, reviewers and readers. Our goal is to draw recognition to the public value of Australian books and ensuring they continue to be created, published, and read.

As a small publisher, an Australian Publishing Fund would help us publish more Australian books, stay viable in a difficult market, and continue contributing to national culture and public discussion. It would support the risks we take on new authors, local stories and important ideas while helping Australian books reach readers, schools, libraries and bookshops.