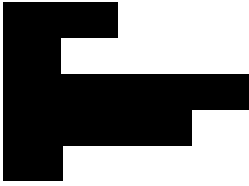


National Cultural Policy Submission

1469472

Public and anonymous



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

Dear Minister Burke,

I am writing as a passionate supporter of independent bookshops, to urge the government to include meaningful support for bookshops in the new National Cultural Policy.

My local bookshop, Mary Martin, support the local community in CBD and South Melbourne.

Local bookshops are not merely retail businesses. They are cultural infrastructure - community gathering places where Australian stories are discovered. Yet every year bookshops close, undermined by online giants and discount department stores.

I moved to Melbourne in 2023 and having no friends, I found myself at one Mary Martin's bookclubs and haven't stopped going since. I have found friends, learnt about Australian literature and culture.

Australia lags behind comparable countries in protecting its book retail sector. France, Italy, the UK, Germany, and more have introduced proven measures that have stabilised their independent bookshop sectors. Australia should do the same.

I support the Australian Booksellers Association's call to recognise local bookshops as cultural infrastructure. Local bookshops are irreplaceable - but without support, more will close. As a reader and community member, I ask you to stand up for these vital spaces before they are gone.

Yours sincerely,

