

**National Cultural Policy Submission**

1469504

Public

Organisation

MacLean's Booksellers



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

I'd like to see specific support for Independent bookshops. We are an independent bookshop in Newcastle NSW. Next year we've been in the same place for 30 years. For a long time it was a profitable business, but it is not any longer. We do many things outside of being a physical bookshop. We have an online sales platform, we sell audio-books by partnering with libro.fm. We are the bookseller for the Newcastle Writer's Festival. We are the bookseller for Newcastle and Lake Macquarie council libraries and other events. We host many author events and book talks/book clubs in-store. We have many school accounts and we support the schools by supporting author visits and with free book delivery. We support the local chapter of the Children's Book Council of Australia with financial support and by turning up to their events. We often find ourselves out and about supporting authors and the book industry at events where we don't sell enough stock to pay a staff member to be there. We support local children's sports teams and local art institutions. We are located on an urban street with many other businesses where there is more and more anti-social behaviour associated with homelessness and drug use. I am a member of the local chamber of commerce where we plan events to bring positive gatherings to the street. We offer a safe space and sometimes when there is violence happening on the street people enter our shop to remove themselves from situations. Our customers tell us every day that we are a valued part of the community. I volunteer my time to run the bookshop and do not take a wage, but it is still difficult financially to continue to operate as a business. Any help the government could offer to single, independently owned bookshops would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.