

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public

Individual

Toni Jordan



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

I'm a writer of adult fiction who has published eight novels, including international best-sellers. I've won numerous awards and fellowships, taught and mentored other writers, and one of my books has been adapted into a film. I know I'm one of the lucky ones but it's reaching the stage where my work is no longer sustainable.

Leaving aside the cultural imperative of having Australians telling Australian stories, the creative industries have been one of Australia's economic success stories. Our film, music, live theatre and gaming industries all punch above their weight and return to our economy many times their government investment. It's time for Australian writers to receive the same kind of support, so we can take our place as world-leaders. We have the talent, the commitment and the know-how. We only need the support.

I am a member of the Australian Society of Authors (ASA) and support its submission, and I especially want to focus on direct investment in our writers and illustrators, giving them valuable time to write, and upon a basic income pilot. We have an opportunity right now to halt the decades of under-investment in Australian literature, and to revitalise a sector with so much potential.