

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public and anonymous



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

As a publisher that creates literacy titles to support the development of reading skills, as an author of literacy titles, as a parent, as a friend, as a reader, as a human – learning to read, loving reading, supporting storytellers – these experiences have formed me and my world. I am extremely privileged to work with the creators of stories and texts and illustrations and photographs, and to have sustained a career within the publishing industry.

When you enter a physical bookshop, you step into a multiverse of stories and knowledge. You immediately connect with storytellers from Australia and around the world; you connect with the person browsing the shelves next to you; you buy the Big Issue from outside the shopfront and [REDACTED] as you do; you share new or favourite books with friends and family. The world feels expansive and endless but always connected to people.

My local bookstores are community hubs – local authors launch their books; window displays showcase gorgeous cover art and design from illustrators, photographers and visual designers; children find opportunities to read and learn; friends browse the shelves before heading to the coffee shop next door.

In a bookshop, you choose the book. You hold the book. You turn the pages. You read the text. You look at the visuals. And if you have the means, you choose to buy the book. Yes, the online environment is convenient to purchase from at times. I have done. But I really try not to when it comes to purchasing books. In a world of AI, in a world where social media and algorithms are curating what we view and engage with, a bookshop is a critical space for people to exert independence and choice.

We need to support the arts. We need spaces for book creators to showcase their work and have opportunities to meet their readers. Bookshops connect the arts to the people; when people connect, communities will be richer.