



Jacinta diMase Management

Office for the Arts
Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

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I am a literary agent of 30-years in the book publishing industry. I also teach part-time at Brunswick South-West Primary School in Victoria where I run one of the few remaining specialist library programs in the state.

My experience puts me at the forefront of what's happening within the publishing industry and primary schools. I know reading engagement amongst young people is plummeting and has become worse year-on-year since I started teaching more than 10 years ago.

However, I can see the positive effect a funded, staffed, and curated school library has on the readers of the future – especially when authors and illustrators are able to visit the school to inspire students and our community with their creativity, imagination, and passion for books and reading.

I am calling for:

*A funding commitment to educational programs that support Australian authors and school communities via a nationwide “creators in schools’ program”.

*Funding for much-needed research to provide data that measures reading engagement rates among young people so that programs can be developed to target specific need.

*Extra Funding for public libraries to boost their collections and extra funding for the Library Lending Rights budget to boost creators’ income when their works are borrowed.

I am a member of the Australian Literary Agents Association and wholeheartedly support submissions made by the Australian Society of Authors (ASA), and Books Create Australia.

Yours sincerely,

Jacinta di Mase
Founder and Director
Jacinta Dimase Management