

National Cultural Policy Submission

1469791

Public

Individual

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Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

As an Australian who has always been a reader, I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute.

As a former teacher I was confronted regularly with the empowerment provided by an ability to read well. Reading is valuable! Reading enhances brain plasticity, critical thinking and imagination. Reading helps us share our intelligences and abilities by improving our empathy and communication with one another.

Society needs stories to help us recognise who we are, and what we might become. Australia must actively support authors, libraries, and booksellers.

I urge the Government to adopt the following key priorities:

1. Invest in targeted national reading campaigns to increase participation for adults, children, and young people.

Social media inflicts an addictive mix of fear and outrage at a deliberately bewildering pace. Reading provides a mental sanctuary as well as empowerment.

2. Equip schools to foster a reading culture by building and properly funding libraries.

Every school should have a library so that every student has access to a library. A library provides equal access to books, technology, and quiet study spaces.

3. Support local libraries.