

## National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public and anonymous

Individual



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

Greetings,

I feel there's too much to discuss in 500 words, so I'll pinpoint the important things. I'd like to focus on reading and writing.

A culture bares its identity in the writing and stories produced within it. We have many Australian authors who've contributed beloved works to the masses - Tim Winton and Markus Zusak as examples off the top of my head. They and the next generation of writers need support to continue the trend.

This also ties into my second point: reading is more important than ever these days. With technology, social media, and AI providing young people with ways to circumvent reading and writing, the government should provide more opportunities to read. We're already seeing the effects of modern technology on children, and allowing them to embrace art and culture will do a lot more to combat that than trying to ban their social media.

Funding more initiatives with reading and writing will allow people to embrace this timeless art, both from the creation and consumption sides.

I believe the following would help.

- Invest in reading campaigns.
- Fund school initiatives to read outside of study.
- Fund libraries and festivals. Here in WA, we have the Joondalup Festival of Fiction and the Perth Arts Festival as examples.
- Fund more scholarships or packages for writers or writer's groups to create their stories.
- Fund First Nation writers. They have some good stories to tell!

For some perspective, I am a budding writer with a few short stories published, and a few novel projects on the go. I've always found the opportunities available for writers, especially in WA, and especially writers creating something less 'marketable' to be minimal. Often, opportunities are either unpaid, organised by other writers, or sponsored by a publishing house looking for something to sell. Having more support from society, and opportunities to entertain the people, would be nice!

Thanks for your time.