

National Cultural Policy Submission

1469812

Public

Individual

Matthew Starr



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

As an everyday Australian reader, I'm glad to share my thoughts on how we can shape our nation's cultural future. Our stories define who we are. To keep our identity alive and thriving, Australia needs to get serious about backing readers, writers, libraries, and local bookshops. The new National Cultural Policy is the perfect chance to put books and reading back at the heart of Australian life. I want to see the Government focus on these four practical goals:

Fund proper school libraries

It is shocking that not every public school in Australia has a working library. A great school library with a qualified librarian boosts academic results and teaches kids how to spot fake news online. Every student deserves that advantage.

Back local bookshops and public libraries

These spaces are the social heart of our suburbs and towns. Libraries give everyone free access to learning and tech, while local bookstores keep our local shopping areas and town centres vibrant by supporting homegrown authors and small businesses.

Boost regional and First Nations literacy

Reading is a massive tool for keeping language and history alive in remote and Indigenous communities. We need to fund grassroots programs so young people can see their own lives reflected in books, helping to close the educational gap between the city and the bush.

Launch national reading campaigns

We need fun, targeted programs that get kids, teens, and adults excited about picking up a book. Reading builds empathy, helps us understand different walks of life, and brings people together when society feels divided.