

Office for the Arts  
Department of Infrastructure, Transport,  
Regional Development, Communications and the Arts  
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I am an author with four published novels to my name. Each of these books examines major social and cultural issues faced by Australians today such as domestic violence, women's safety in public places, housing insecurity of older women, elder financial abuse and much more. I am an active member of the Queensland writing community, where I present workshops and seminars, lead in-conversations and mentor other writers. I also moderate panels at literary festival, judge literary awards and have delivered many author talks and readings.

I do not earn a liveable income from my writing, but I continue to write because books and reading deliver so many benefits that the market cannot secure alone, including literacy, learning, cultural participation, democratic debate, community connection, and access to and empathy for Australian stories, experiences, ideas and knowledge.

I am grateful for the initiatives introduced in *Revive* to assist with the sustainability of author and illustrator careers. However, since the introduction of *Revive*, authors have been facing increasingly precarious conditions. Without immediate support, we risk the viability of the book industry in Australia.

Therefore, I am calling for:

**Direct investment in authors and illustrators** via:

- Multi-year fellowships supporting mid-career authors by providing them with time to write
- Seed money for emerging writers
- A top up to the Lending Rights budget
- A basic income pilot, involving 300 authors.

**Investment in First Nations-led writing and publishing.**

**Solutions to the unprecedented theft of Australian authors' work by multinational tech companies operating within Australia.** For instance:

- Transparency on copyright inputs for, and outputs from, generative AI models
- Research into the impact of generative AI on creative careers and Australian cultural output
- Structural solutions to bring multinational AI companies to the licensing table with Australian rightsholders.

**Tax reform to support author careers** including tax-free literary prizes and grants, and a tax-free threshold for writers and illustrators.

**Adequate resourcing for Writing Australia to deliver:**

- Increased coordination between federal and state funding
- Commissioning of critically needed research to provide baseline data from which to measure impact for the book industry
- Express guarantees included in every funding grant, ensuring that:
  - Authors and illustrators engaged in funded projects will be paid at, or above, ASA recommended rates
  - Generative AI will not be used to replace or diminish the role of human creators in government-funded projects
- Coordination of a book-to-screen pipeline.

**Commitment to educational interventions that support Australian authors and writing careers:**

- Nationwide authors-in-schools program funded out of education budgets
- Reversal of the failed Job-Ready Graduates program.

I am a member of the Australian Society of Authors (ASA) and support its submission. I also support submissions by Books Create Australia and Varuna, The National Writers House.

Please consider seriously theirs and my submission and help make our industry sustainable for the long term.

Yours sincerely,



Author