

Office for the Arts  
Department of Infrastructure, Transport,  
Regional Development, Communications and the Arts  
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I am an emerging writer whose work has been short and longlisted for Australian and international awards including the 2025 Commonwealth Short Story Award. I have had a long practice including unpaid internships (in journalism), volunteer reader roles with University and Community literary magazines in Australia. I have spent many, many hours building connections, refining my craft, seeking out opportunities and refining my skills. I have invested in my own work, as many other writers and creatives have, and I believe that that long-term ongoing investment deserves adequate remuneration, support, and significant governmental investment.

There are very real barriers for emerging writers attempting to participate in the industry since so many opportunities, subscriptions, entry fees, application fees, manuscript assessments etc require funds. I think there's a real need for the government to step in and support entire career pathways so that becoming a writer, and honing the craft, is within reach of all and reflect our communities as they actually are.

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.

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 strongly support the submission by the Australian Society of Authors (ASA).

Yours sincerely,

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