

Office for the Arts
Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications and the Arts
GPO Box 594 | CANBERRA ACT 2601

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19 May 2026

I am an author writing in the speculative fiction space. Earlier this year, I self-published my debut, and have a contract with a small press for a trilogy. It has taken me seven years to get to this point, and I did it all while raising a family that included two special needs children, with no financial support, and almost nothing I was even eligible to apply for. Writing may be an inexpensive hobby, but publishing is certainly not. I have spent thousands of dollars in up-front costs getting to this point, not to mention years of my life. And now I find I will have to pursue multiple auxiliary income streams to have any sort of chance at a living wage. I would like to see creatives supported and treated fairly, in recognition of the work we do and our contribution to culture.

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:

- More fellowships, especially to support emerging and early-career writers, and for them to support a *writer*, not a *project*.
- A top-up of funds in the lending rights bucket, so we can receive fair compensation for our work loaned through libraries.
- A basic income pilot for authors
- Requirements for AI companies to be transparent, to provide compensation for the use of Australian authors work used without permission, for the onus to be on the company, not the individual author, and for proper licensing.
- Tax reform, in the form of tax-free prizes and grants, and a higher tax-free threshold.
- Adequate resourcing of Writing Australia.
- Educational interventions to increase reading rates and curtail the use of AI so students actually learn the skill of writing.

I am a member of the Australian Society of Authors (ASA) and support its submission, as well as the submission by Books Create Australia. There is urgent need of government investment in the writing space.

Yours sincerely,

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