

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

[REDACTED]

19/05/2026

I am an emerging author and my debut novel [REDACTED] will be released on the 26th May this year by HQ/HarperCollins. I am currently writing my second historical novel. My writing has taken me on residencies to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I have been shortlisted for the [REDACTED]

Finding the financial means to pay my basic living expenses and allow me the necessary time and space to write and continue to build my career is a constant challenge, and often very stressful. Writing brings me an enormous amount of joy, and I feel very grateful to feel sure I am on the right career path, but the lack of financial support for authors in this country means that at times I worry I might be forced to give it up. I am at the beginning of my career and am currently earning well under \$8000 per year from my writing. I have been fortunate to receive grants from the Regional Arts Fund to help pay for writing courses that have greatly enriched my knowledge of craft, and which I endeavour to feed back into the Tasmanian writing community of which I am a part through the youth creative writing workshops series I run.

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 am a member of the Australian Society of Authors (ASA) and support its submission.

Yours sincerely,

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