

National Cultural Policy Submission

1470285

Public

Individual

Susan Pyke



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

I am an author writing in an increasingly hostile environment, doing my best to offer a creative response to a time when the climate, creatures and human connections seem increasingly fragile and in need of urgent repair.

Alongside my supportive industry organisation, ASA, 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 via:
 - o Multi-year fellowships supporting early and mid-career authors by providing them with time to write.
 - o Seed money for emerging writers and the publishers willing to take a risk with them by championing their voices.
 - o A top up to the Lending Rights budget.
 - o A basic income pilot, involving 300 authors in different stages of their careers.
- Investment in First Nations-led writing and publishing.
- Solutions to the theft of Australian authors' work by multinational tech companies operating within Australia including:
 - o Transparency on copyright inputs for, and outputs from, generative AI models.
 - o Research into the impact of generative AI on creative careers and Australian cultural output.
 - o 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 and state-based organisations such as Writers Victoria to deliver increased coordination between federal and state funding.
- Guarantees in every funding grant, ensuring that:
 - o Authors and illustrators engaged in funded projects will be paid at, or above, ASA recommended rates
 - o Generative AI will not be used to replace or diminish the role of human creators in government-funded projects.
 - o Coordination of a book-to-screen pipeline.
- Commitment to educational interventions that support Australian authors and writing careers at all levels of education.

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

All the best

Susan Pyke

Publishing under Sue Hall Pyke

