

National Cultural Policy Submission

1470393

Public

Individual

Jess Racklyeft



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

Hello,

My name is Jess Racklyeft and I have worked for almost two decades in publishing, from sales and marketing to illustration and writing.

In the next National Cultural Policy, I'm joining Australia Reads in calling for the Australian Government to invest in a reading nation.

Reading provides better education and employment outcomes, reduces our stress and loneliness, supports social connection, and increases our empathy for others.

My work is regularly focused on the environment. As someone who regularly visits schools in Victoria and interstate I have seen the direct relationship between a strong reading culture and educated, empathetic students who learn about our country, its flora and fauna and environmental issues.

I have also seen over my career the decline of libraries at schools and teacher librarian roles, and a reduced appreciation for the power of the right book for the right student.

To ensure all Australians have access to the life-changing benefits of reading, I'd like to see the National Cultural Policy include interventions that provide:

National reading campaigns for adults, children and young people, helping them overcome the barriers to regular reading.

A library in every school, with professional staff and collection budgets, and more support for educators and parents to create strong reading cultures for students.

Greater community access to books and reading through author touring initiatives, voucher schemes, and book club programs.

Promotions that showcase Australian stories, highlighting contemporary titles and First Nations creators.

I'd also like to support additional budget for author/illustrator visits at all schools - including regional, lower socio-economic and smaller schools - to encourage this love for reading and creating, and telling our own stories.

Kind regards,

Jess Racklyeft