

National Cultural Policy Submission

1470629

Public

Organisation

Hordern House Rare Books



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

It is of critical importance that the levying of GST on printed materials be reconsidered to bring Australian practice into line with that of most other civilised countries. In England, for example, books are zero-rated for VAT purposes. Although Australia is a party to the \,Florence Agreement\,, the UNESCO Agreement on the Importation of Educational, Scientific and Cultural Materials, the Howard government negotiated with the Democrats led by Meg Lees in order to get the votes necessary to pass the necessary legislation. To her discredit Lees did not pursue the issue of tax on books and the moment passed. This can now be seen as having been an obvious mistake.