

## National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public and anonymous

Individual



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

Australia must actively support reading, authors, libraries, and bookshops. The NCP provides opportunity to enrich Australian life and decrease community ignorance of our own culture and abilities by placing books and reading at its core. I suggest the following steps:

1. Invest in targeted national reading campaigns to increase participation for all Australians to improve literacy skills and increase general and historical knowledge.
2. Foster a reading culture by building and properly funding school & community libraries; and supporting community bookshops.
3. Support community groups with a focus on reading and friendship to increase knowledge, foster friendships to reduce isolation especially in an ageing society and to help increase and maintain mental health
4. Provide support for all Australian cultures, be they indigenous Australian, white Australian or immigrants to Australia especially in remote areas. This is to preserve and respect our shared history and heritage, strengthening self-determination, and overcoming geographic isolation.