

## National Cultural Policy Submission

1470894

Public

Individual

Ed Wright



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

I am particularly interested in the centrality of the artist in literature.

1. It's increasingly difficult for writers to earn a full-time living from literary and even para literary endeavours and I think that the grants for writing should reflect this. Having been on the peers for Creative Australia and the Literature Board for Create NSW, I have seen how difficult it is to get a grant and the low rate of success. I feel that the current system privileges people who are able to stop their regular work for large chunks of time in order to glean the benefits of a grant. This generally means those who have buffers in their financial existences whether it's spousal support, family wealth, university positions etc. I think the grants should recognise people being able to buy smaller amounts of time away from their job in order to get concentrated time for the deep work that can later be continued in their regular lives. As such, I would cancel budgets, grants based on the criteria for travel and research (although grants could be used for this). I would make all the grants for the same amount and based on assessment of their literary quality. If the grants were limited to 10-15K (preferably tax free), then this would buy a lot more people a valuable 1-2-3 month of immersive writing, which can then be carried back to regular life. I think this would better reflect the conditions writers are working under and will continue to, especially when the readership and marketplace for literature is shrinking, an unfortunate phenomenon that is unlikely to change in the near future.