

## National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public and anonymous



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

Literature is once again an afterthought. For an industry that contributes so many thoughts and ideas to the arts, and is so often adapted into other forms of media, it is an industry that faces one of the largest financial barriers to enter. If you don't already have the financial means to focus on a literary work, then you either can't create one or you have to make enormous sacrifices to do so. Even the arts funding bodies only allocate a miniature portion of grants to literary writers, with many funding rounds ignoring literature all-together. Creative Victoria and local councils have recently had funding rounds that excluded literature entirely from the successful funded projects. The rationale could supposedly be that funding a literary work means only one worker is getting funded, but from that one literary work there are ripples of extra work and cultural enlightenment that is gifted to the country. With how the industry stands at the moment, literature is for the privileged few. And until the National Cultural Policy enacts measures to rectify this and bring equality about art forms then it is not one that can be taken to heart.

Also, AI companies need to properly pay for their intrusion on the industry. Their existence is built off the back of stolen work so they should be taxed heavily and that tax could go directly into a funding pool that creatives can apply for to produce new creative works.

And income from creative work should be tax-free since it's already minimal and hasn't kept up with inflation for nearly 100 years.