

National Cultural Policy Submission

1470957

Public

Organisation

The Katharine Susannah Prichard Foundation Inc

Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

The KSP Foundation Inc is a not-for-profit incorporated organisation and registered DGR charity based in the Perth Hills region of Western Australia. Established in 1985, we maintain Katharine's Place – the heritage-listed home of author Katharine Susannah Prichard (1883–1969) – as the KSP Writers' Centre. We support writers at all levels through workshops, residencies, fellowships, groups, youth programs, services, competitions, events, publications, and retreats, while promoting Western Australian literature and Prichard's legacy. Since launching our inaugural Writer-in-Residence program in 1987, we have delivered it annually without interruption, establishing it as Australia's oldest continuous national writers' residency.

Beyond professional development, we provide vital social connection and wellbeing benefits by creating inclusive spaces where people write for personal growth, community, and creative fulfilment — not only for publication or career goals.

As a key literary hub in Western Australia, we welcome the new National Cultural Policy. Literature is essential to our national identity, yet the sector faces serious challenges.

Key Challenges:

- Precarious incomes for writers, with literature receiving a disproportionately small share of arts funding. This is worse in regional Western Australia due to isolation and limited publishing opportunities.
- Sustainability of small community organisations like ours that deliver high-impact programs while maintaining heritage assets, amid rising costs and volunteer dependence.
- Barriers for emerging, regional, First Nations and diverse writers, compounded by digital disruption and AI threats to copyright.
- Reduced visibility for Australian stories, especially from Western Australia and the regions.

Opportunities and Recommendations:

We recommend the Policy builds on Revive by placing literature at its heart:

- Increased targeted investment in writer development, regional residencies, mentorships and small publishers, plus expansion of Public Lending Rights.
- Dedicated funding for community writers' centres and grassroots infrastructure, recognising the role of heritage sites in creative practice.
- Strong support for youth and emerging writer pathways to build the next generation.
- Strategies to promote Australian literature domestically and internationally, including ethical responses to AI and global content dominance.
- Better national-regional coordination to ensure equitable support across Australia.

What matters most to us is creating accessible, inclusive spaces where writers can develop their craft, connect with others, enhance their wellbeing, and tell authentic Australian stories. The new Policy should champion both the intrinsic and economic value of literature and deliver fair support for all regions and communities.

Thank you for the valuable opportunity to contribute to the New Policy.