

## National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public and anonymous



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

I am a book editor, having worked across the literary sector for approx. 8 years, including as a bookseller/book buyer, all with a focus on children's books. I am also an emerging glass artist. It is hard to see a future in any of these things - despite having done 'everything right' and ambitiously pursued working in published by completing a degree and several (unpaid!) internships alongside building my own projects and working on student publications. I am now actively planning exiting the industry I love - as have swathes of others in recent years - as it is unsustainable both in terms of wages and in support for Australian literature in the face of AI and economic pressures. Despite my skills and absolute passion for books, I do not feel that there is a pathway to career growth either as a freelance writer or as a full-time editor.

My suggestions are:

- National strategy to fund teacher librarians (and libraries) in all public schools (separate to schools' budgets), with incentives for choosing Australian books
- \* Small subsidy for high school students to buy books from local bookshops
- \* Reversal of 2019 arts/humanities course fee increases
- \* Longer funding cycles for literary journals
- \* Establishment of nonfiction grants to bolster long form journalistic writing
- \* Removal or reduction of tax on literary and arts prizes
- \* Tighten legislation around internships
- \* Lowered tax on income derived from arts activities as secondary income, i.e. having an ABN while also having PAYG income
- \* Trial of artist basic income
- \* Reinstate Centre for Youth Literature, fund one in every state
- \* Industry wide revision of Awards such as Book Industry Award to better working conditions, salaries and in line with current expectations of post graduate degrees
- \* Funded Writers Centres in every state
- \* Grants for creators and publishers of picture books specifically with traditional (non-digital) art
- \* Legislation banning generative AI from using copyrighted material without consent
- \* Compensation to all Australian creators whose work was stolen for the purposes of training generative AI
- \* Specialised training programs for niche but in demand skills such as glassblowing