

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public and anonymous

Individual



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

I'm very concerted about literacy rates in Australia, the sidelining of libraries and quiet spaces to read, and the continued defunding of writing which is the greatest art form we have. The Icelandic government supports its writers and as a result has a healthy reading public with a strong culture of book gifting and story telling. I would like to see increased visibility and space for access to books and writers eg a robust library catalogue and quiet spaces in libraries for each community; writers being supported to make a living from their craft; and a community revival of reading as a past time. We should encourage people to read by sponsoring competitions that lead to vouchers for bookstores, holding author talks more widely from both local and international writers. Libraries need to take back the quiet and holy spaces they used to serve when I was a kid, it's a shame to see that libraries are now all about community events and making so much noise while the only quiet space would be a study room if we are lucky. What about all the neurodivergent folk who just want a refuge from the world to read quietly? Libraries do serve an important community service but their primary function should be in worship of books and reading - not the razzle dazzle of craft activities and entertaining screaming toddlers with songs. Let's focus on books again. The highest art form needed to survive these challenging times.