

National Cultural Policy Submission

1470998

Public and anonymous



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

I'm an Australian author. My income relies on book sales, lending rights and doing public appearances. I either receive 10% of the RRP per book, or 10% of the net receipts if the book is heavily discounted (which the vast majority of copies are). I have to supplement my income with a day job, which leads to less writing time.

Lending Rights is a fabulous initiative as it encourages more reads per physical book and compensates the author for this. Please maintain this! Also, please budget generously for funding of public and school libraries, and ways to attract and retain teacher librarians in every school.

Make incentives for Australian books. Over 70% of titles are from overseas authors. Give publishers incentive to produce books by Australian authors (grants they can apply for?) rather than merely marketing overseas titles.

Support writers festivals. By subsidising the entrance fee, more people can attend, spend their money on the book rather than the event, and create a larger, more connected community.

An author friend of mine suggested having a 3–6-month period during which all new books must be sold at RRP (instead of being heavily discounted). The only people making money out of this are the department and online stores and the book distributors. Authors in particular get minimal royalties on discounted titles, and publishers also suffer (but pass their losses onto lower royalties for the author).

Force art/book/music platforms (and the creatives using them) to declare all use of gen-AI in creative works. Help artists retain their careers and help consumers buy with their eyes open.