

National Cultural Policy Submission

1471211

Public

Individual

Anne Myers



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

Office for the Arts

Department of Infrastructure, Transport,

Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

GPO Box 594 | CANBERRA ACT 2601



22 May 2026

I am a writer. I live and breathe this life. Opportunities are fewer. Making even a small living from this work is for the very few. The constant hustle for any work to be embraced. The constant grind to prove your worth. That pursuing this kind of life is a worthy endeavour and yet this is not reflected in current policy. We are the storytellers for our country. We need to be cherished and supported.

As more independent publishers struggle to survive more and more voices will not be heard. Less risks taken.

I am grateful for the initiatives introduced in Revive to assist with the sustainability of author and illustrator careers. However, since the introduction of Revive, authors have been facing increasingly precarious conditions. Without immediate support, we risk the viability of the book industry in Australia.

I am calling for:

Direct investment in authors and illustrators via:

Multi-year fellowships supporting mid-career authors by providing them with time to write.

Seed money for emerging writers.

A top up to the Lending Rights budget.

A basic income pilot, involving 300 authors.

Investment in First Nations-led writing and publishing.

Solutions to the unprecedented theft of Australian authors' work by multinational tech companies operating within Australia:

Transparency on copyright inputs for, and outputs from, generative AI models.

Research into the impact of generative AI on creative careers and Australian cultural output.

Structural solutions to bring multinational AI companies to the licensing table with Australian rightsholders.

Tax reform to support author careers

This includes tax-free literary prizes and grants, and a tax-free threshold for writers and illustrators.

Adequate resourcing for Writing Australia to deliver:

Increased coordination between federal and state funding.

Commissioning of critically-needed research to provide baseline data from which to measure impact for the book industry.

Express guarantees included in every funding grant, ensuring that authors and illustrators engaged in funded projects will be paid at or above the ASA recommended rate, and that generative AI will not be used to replace or diminish the role of human creators in government-funded projects.

Coordination of a book-to-screen pipeline.

Commitment to educational interventions that support Australian authors and writing careers:

Nationwide authors-in-schools program funded out of education budgets.

Reversal of the failed Job-Ready Graduates program.

I am a member of the Australian Society of Authors (ASA) and support its submission.

Yours sincerely,

Anne Myers