

Office for the Arts
Department of ITRDCA
[REDACTED]

22 May 2026

A new National Cultural Policy

I am an author based in [REDACTED] I have been writing for as long as I can remember, starting at the age of ten when I wrote, illustrated and bound a book about a group of young children caught up in a diamond heist and their consequent run-ins with smugglers and bumbling policemen.

My debut novel is due to be published next year.

The support for emerging writers provided by bodies like the Australian Society of Authors (**ASA**) and Writers Victoria encouraged me to continue to write over many years. These organisations are a crucial lifeline for writers engaged in what is invariably a solitary endeavour.

I consider myself to be exceptionally fortunate, as I have a decades-long career in the law which has given me the financial freedom to write in the small corners of time I am able to carve out on weekends and late at night.

I am grateful for the initiatives introduced in *Revive* to assist with the sustainability of author and illustrator careers. However, I am particularly concerned about the perilous and fragile existence faced by many writers in Australia who do not have the luxury or privilege of a second career to provide a financial pillow. Without immediate support, we risk the viability of the book industry in Australia.

I am calling for:

- Multi-year fellowships to support mid-career authors by providing time to write.
- Seed funding for emerging writers.
- A basic income pilot.
- A tax-free threshold for writers and illustrators and tax-free literary prizes and grants
- Adequate funding for Writing Australia to provide support for low-income and emerging writers
- Funding grant guarantees for payment at or above the ASA recommended rate.

I am a member of the ASA and support its submission.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Jane L Hider