

Office for the Arts
Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
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[REDACTED]

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I am an emerging author desperately trying to support my developing career in an ever-shrinking literary market whilst also supporting my family both financially and emotionally. Creating literary art takes time, commitment and emotional availability. It also requires us to have faith the industry will be there to support us and protect our art.

The initiatives introduced in *Revive* to assist with the sustainability of author and illustrator careers were a good start. 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.

To support emerging writers like myself, I am calling for:

- Direct investment in authors 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
- Solutions to the unprecedented theft of Australian author's work by multinational tech companies 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 authors' careers – including tax-free literary prizes and a tax-free threshold for writers
- Adequate resourcing for Writers Victoria and other industry groups 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

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

Yours sincerely,

