

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public

Individual

Lucy Christopher



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

I am an author of stories for young people and adults as well as an academic in Creative Writing. I have published 8 books, all award-winning and several bestselling. My work has been published and translated in over twenty countries and optioned for film and TV.

Despite much success as an author, it is impossible for me to sustain a career as a full-time, or even part-time, writer. I therefore need to have a permanent job as an academic, which is a job stressful and time-consuming and also, sadly, precarious. The work and energy that my academic job takes is significant and reduces the time I can spend on developing new work. I am also a new mother. Motherhood and academic work combined leaves little extra time to write. I write in the margins of life, unable to descend into the deep space and time needed to grapple with the complex ideas and thoughts required to write novels.

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:

Minimum living wage for writers (much like the scheme in Ireland)

For awards, grants and fellowships to not be taxed

For greater recognition of the value of literature and of creating it by those in power, and recognition that in this digital age of GEN AI, good books take time to write by humans

Higher fees paid for lending rights, including of digital lending

More funds / grants to support the development of new work but without the extremely time-consuming application forms usually required for these things

A residency scheme that supports authors with caring responsibilities

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

Yours sincerely,

Lucy Christopher