

## National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public and anonymous

Individual



Short submission (text box 500 words or less).

As an author and illustrator with [REDACTED] traditionally published picture books, I am deeply committed to Australian children's literature. Each of my books represents at least a year of dedicated writing and illustration, yet despite my efforts and critical success, I do not earn a living wage from my work. I have invested significant time applying for numerous grants without success – the pool of candidates is too large, and the number of grants is too few. If we're to ensure that Australian publishing continues, meaningful change is essential.

I am grateful for the initiatives introduced in Revive to support the sustainability of authors' and illustrators' 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. For instance:

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 including 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, ASA recommended rates

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,

[Redacted Signature]