

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public

Individual

Christine Kinnear



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

Dear Minister Burke,

I am writing as a passionate supporter of independent bookshops, to urge the government to include meaningful support for bookshops in the new National Cultural Policy.

My local bookshop, Avid Reader Bookshop supports the local community [in Brisbane.

Local bookshops are not merely retail businesses. They are cultural infrastructure - community gathering places where Australian stories are discovered, where children fall in love with reading, and where literary careers begin.

Yet every year bookshops close, undermined by

online giants and discount department stores.

I have been attending Bookclubs at Avid Reader Bookshop for 15 years and have been part of the community of readers who come to this bookshop to meet and discuss books, establish friendship, seek advice on suitable books as gifts and I have listened to many interesting authors at the wonderful Events that are organised at Avid Reader Bookshop.

Australia lags behind comparable countries in protecting its book retail sector. France, Italy, the UK, Germany, and more have introduced proven measures that have stabilised their independent bookshop sectors. Australia should do the same.

I support the Australian Booksellers Association's call to recognise local bookshops as cultural infrastructure. Local bookshops are irreplaceable - but without support, more will close. As a reader and community member, I ask you to stand up for these vital spaces before they are gone.

Yours sincerely,

Christine Kinnear