

Office for the Arts
Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
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My name is Karen Foxlee and I am an Australian author. I have written ten multi-award-winning novels for children and young adults. My books explore complex themes for young readers and open up worlds and experiences for young minds. My books are published around the world and have made publishers and booksellers profits in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. I struggle to make a living as an author. Until recently I always worked as a registered nurse as well as writing part-time and now must take on any additional work I can to stay afloat. This includes helping other aspiring authors with their writing, school and festival visits, and award judging. Even with these additional income streams I face a precarious financial experience day to day. I am also one of the many Australian authors who have recently had the entirety of their written works stolen by generative AI companies without compensation in sight.

I was pleased with the initiatives introduced in *Revive* to assist with the sustainability of author and illustrator careers, but things are only getting worse for the book industry in Australia. Who are we as a nation without Australian stories? Should our children only read the words of international writers and not see themselves reflected in the books they open?

I would like to see:

- The introduction of more multi-year fellowships to support mid-career authors like me who struggle to find time to write.
- An expansion of the Lending Rights budget to support authors financially.
- The trial of a basic income pilot.
- Tax-free prize money for national awards
- Real solutions to the impact of generative AI on creative careers and a national plan for protecting copyright against these companies in Australia and internationally.

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

Yours sincerely,

Karen Foxlee