

National Cultural Policy Submission

1471823

Public

Individual

Blake Nuto



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

I am an author / illustrator whose books have travelled the world and landed on some fancy lists. As a father of 3, my ability to pursue this passion is always at the mercy of my financial situation while I teach 4 days per week to support my family and carve out time to work on books and work on grant submissions.

I am grateful for current initiatives introduced to assist with the sustainability of author and illustrator careers, of which I have benefited. However authors have been facing increasingly difficult conditions. Without increased, sustained support, we risk reducing the Australian literate voice to only those who can afford it.

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

Tax reform to support author careers

Adequate resourcing for writing programs and bodies.

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

Yours sincerely,

Blake Nuto