

National Cultural Policy Submission

1471896

Public and anonymous

Individual



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

Dear Minister Burke,

I am writing as a passionate supporter of independent bookshops, as a literacy critic and disabled writer. I urge you to include meaningful support for local bookshops in the new national cultural policy.

My local bookshops, [REDACTED], are hugely important to the community. They are places for people of all ages to learn and play, to understand other people's stories and to tell their own.

The [REDACTED] in particular means a great deal to me. It is wheelchair accessible, with the doors always open so I don't need to struggle to push or pull them. The owner, [REDACTED], remembers me and offers personalised recommendations. I look forward to attending the regular events (book clubs, book launches, author talks) at the shop. When friends visit from overseas or interstate or even other parts of Victoria, the first place I want to take them is [REDACTED].

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.

I would also like to see the new National Cultural Policy deliver tax reform to support author careers, including a tax free threshold for writers and illustrators and tax-free literary prizes and grants. Disabled writers in particular face many barriers to creating and sharing our art, and the new cultural policy is an opportunity to dismantle some of those barriers.

I also strongly support the submission by the Australian Society of Authors (ASA).

Your sincerely,

[REDACTED]