

Office for the Arts
Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications and the Arts
GPO Box 594 | CANBERRA ACT 2601

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National Cultural Policy

I am an Australian Children's author and would like to say in the future directions of the National Cultural Policy.

I decided to pursue my writing ambition three years ago and have thrown myself into courses interstate conferences, dozens of paid publisher assessments and a writing mentorship. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Passionate about the industry with a love of inspiring children to read and write, [REDACTED]

But no matter how hard I work at my writing and how much I give back to the community, I rely on my paid work as a part-time primary school teacher to help my family financially.

As an author, published with a small highly regarded independent press I will unlikely ever earn from royalties enough to cover the conference fees which led to the acquisition of my manuscript. I would love to write dozens of books and poems for children from picture books through to Young Adult but the truth is that the time and effort is unsustainable for creatives trying to break even financially let alone make a profit or a living off their work.

I am grateful for the initiatives introduced in *Revive* to assist with the sustainability of author and illustrator 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.

Yours sincerely,

