

Hazel Edwards OAM

Submission

I think Australian Society of Authors (ASA) should be providing intellectual leadership in new ways to financially compensate creators and not lose the problem solving skills in our education system. The AI lobby of non payment for data collecting agencies IP theft is too late. Copyright as a concept is defunct. Let's invite our young techi aware problem solvers to design a new trading system to pay original projects which we need for Australia's development too. But it must be economically viable.ASA SHOULD have the thought leaders. Currently all resources are being wasted on IP lawyers and committees. Eg Sir John Monash Science Selective School where my 16 year old grandson Henry Sheffield attends is a potential future problem solving hub of new ideas. Offer them the challenge of a future alternative economic system to replace Copyright for creators. They are our future

Start ups not grants and committees.

From: **Hazel Edwards** [REDACTED]

Date: Fri, 1 May 2026 at 11:44 am

Subject: Hazel Edwards O.A.M. Not renewing ASA membership 12005144

To: ASA Administration [REDACTED]

CEO, &
Committee of Management
ASA

I will not be renewing my ASA membership from July 1st 2026

I've been a member since my early 20s .That's almost 60 years. (I did not join in 2012 as listed on your current ASA website.)

	Member no 12005144
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I can afford the fee but I don't agree with the priorities nor the strident politicising. I predict there will be many who had no income from writing in the past year and who will leave ASA and other organizations unless the services are relevant.

Theirs is a financial decision. Mine is different.And it's not an aged fear of change.

It's the issue of ASA offering relevant services.

For 20 years I was on the Board (up at 4.30 am in Melbourne to fly to Sydney for the Saturday meeting.) because vital to have self employed writers of various genres from interstate to contribute issues and channel information to members in their various networks . I was awarded the ASA Medal (2009) . In the past I have mentored many aspiring writers and suggested they join ASA as the peak professional organisation.

It's always been difficult for authors and illustrators to make a living. Earlier, the board had a disproportionate number of educational/ children's creators because their networks had more realistic full time business experience of creating multiple books annually , school and library speaking circuits , agents and issues such as insurances and Working With Children checks (which still not nationalized to a single fee) And awareness of

the need to facilitate international markets, translations and adaptations into new mediums. To enable modest self employment. Originally ASA internally had expertise in legal advice for contracts and ability to negotiate insurances etc but now these are expensively outsourced.

Fulltime writers situations are different from academic writers with an umbrella university salary or those seeking CV credits

ASA has lobbied against AI data theft for creative works but govt committee reports are not improving the situation for the average writer. Bookshops closing, schools not buying books, and the political blackmailing of festival speaker guests has reduced income. CAL, PLR and ELR payments will be affected. Copyright as a concept needs updating. ASA is not leading with alternatives.

Now the strident politicisation of gender/political issues rather than quality writing ability and respectful debate determine where limited funds are spend, who judges what, paid residencies, reviews, and who gets prizes.

I predict many will leave ASA and other arts organizations unless the services are relevant and the policies impartial. They'll gain skills elsewhere.

Grants are not the answer. Encouraging start ups may be.

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Hazel Edwards OAM

Author

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