

## National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public

Individual

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Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

I am an author and editor, and have been working in these roles my entire adult life. My first publications in literary journals - a vital part of our ecosystem - were in 2002; and I have published five books, all of which have been shortlisted for major literary awards. This is all by way of credentials.

It is incredibly difficult to sustain a career in the arts, and so often, government policy has treated the work of artists (and writers especially) as if it is not \,real work.\, A government that truly values the arts would pay its artists accordingly.

My suggestions are as follows:

- Adopting or adapting the Irish model, where writers and artists are paid, by the government, a living wage. Irish literature is blooming at the moment - it is full of energy and producing incredibly, internationally-recognised work, as a result of this scheme
- Tax reform. Creative Australia grants are considered taxable income; so too are literary prizes. This is absurd, as each of these sums are rarely received, and usually in recognition of several years' worth of work.
- Reinstatement of multi-year grants for working artists, such as those issued under the Whitlam and Keating governments - governments still remembered and recognised for their true belief in, and support of, cultural work across this nation.