

National Cultural Policy Submission

1472259

Public

Individual

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Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

I write on behalf of Student and Emerging Writers. Our study and work contributes to Australian culture, education and public life by widening and research the pursuit of writing as Art.

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The issues we are most concerned about include defunding of Arts Education and Industry, AI and overexploitation of writers. In

our experience, reduced funding for education and creative institutions such as Writers Victoria coupled with new concerns over AI ultimately lead to overexploitation of workers in the Literary Industry, with shrinking margins, profitability and employment options.

We support the call for a National Plan for Books and Reading,

particularly an Australian Book Fund and a stronger role for Writing Australia, including reinstating Writers Victoria's funding. This matters because students and emerging writers are the ones who reap the investment in Industry, and continue to push it further.

Government has a role because books create public benefits that the market alone cannot secure, including literacy, learning, cultural

participation, democratic debate, educational quality, research dissemination and access to Australian stories, ideas and knowledge.

This would help ensure Australian books are created, published, discovered, bought, borrowed, taught, exported and read. It would strengthen the sustainability of Australian publishing and support the wider ecosystem of authors, illustrators, translators, editors, designers, booksellers, libraries, schools and readers.