



Alex Adsett Literary

Alex Adsett Literary
ABN: 93 621 350 988
PO Box 694, Tugun, Q 4224
[REDACTED]

23 May 2026

Office for the Arts

Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications and the Arts
GPO Box 594 | CANBERRA ACT 2601
[REDACTED]

RE: Submission to the National Cultural Policy Submission 2026

As an Australian literary agent, who has worked in the book publishing industry for close to thirty years, I welcome the opportunity to provide a submission to the National Cultural Policy in 2026, at a key juncture in Australia's cultural development. I represent Alex Adsett Literary, a literary agency of four literary agents, representing more than 50 award-winning and bestselling authors and illustrators across the Australian publishing industry.

As we see the Australian book industry face threats from declining literacy levels, disadvantage representation from American sales algorithms, and copyright theft from AI LLMs, the industry feels increasingly precarious. We look to the cultural policy to sustainably support the industry to continue to do what it does best – support Australian cultural through incredible Australian books for children and adults.

I am calling for:

1. Direct investment in authors, illustrators, and arts workers:

- Investment in First Nations-led writing and publishing
- Continued support for, and expansion of, the Lending Rights budget,
- As successfully modelled in Ireland, a basic income pilot program, involving 300 – 500 authors.
- Multi-year travel funding for Australian arts works to travel to key licensing forums to promote and license Australian books.
- Continued support for the highly successful Visiting International Publisher programs
- Increased support for international publishing delegations to overseas publishing forms, to build capacity within Australia's publishing sector to sell rights, and increase trust and collaboration between Australia and international publishing networks.

2. Tax reform to support author careers including tax-free literary prizes and grants, and a tax-free threshold for writers and illustrators.

3. **In the face of the global and local reading crisis, support for reading initiatives** including:
- book vouchers for school students, especially those in remote and rural areas, to encourage reading and support bookstores,
 - A mandated library and teacher-librarian in every state school in Australia,
 - funding for a national campaign to support books by Australian authors and illustrators,
 - support for First Nations-led reading programs in remote communities.
4. **Solutions to the 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.
 - Taxing multinational AI companies to support ongoing literacy initiatives.
5. **Increased support for Australian booksellers.** Booksellers are vital cultural infrastructure supporting the Australian book industry. They often launch the writing careers of emerging authors, and support new readers to discover a lifelong love of reading. Bookstores are under threat from both overseas owned online stores and the global decline in reading rates, and need government support to survive. I call for dedicated bookseller support, including:
- a book voucher program for school children across Australia, which will not only support bookstores, but also bolster literacy rates for children,
 - funding to support a national campaign to read and buy Australian authors and illustrators.
 - As evidenced by the stable and thriving bookstores in Europe bolsters by legislative support, develop a fixed book pricing for the first 12 months of a book's publication, to level the playing field for Australian booksellers, and support Australian books being published at a sustainable price.

As a member of the Australian publishing industry, I also strongly support the submissions from the Australian Society of Authors (ASA), Australian Bookselling Association (ABA), and Australia Reads.

Best wishes



Alexandra Adsett
Literary Agent and Publishing Consultant
Alex Adsett Literary