

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



24th May 2026

Submission: National Cultural Policy Consultation

To whom it concerns

I am a writer and would-be author, with numerous articles published in a range of publications both online and in print magazines. Currently I am trying to attract the interest of a publisher and/or an agent for a book I've written, but in an industry that hesitates to risk investing in work by emerging authors such as myself this is proving incredibly challenging.

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:***
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 - *Nationwide authors-in-schools program funded out of education budgets.*
 - *Reversal of the failed Job-Ready Graduates program.*

I am a member of the Australian Society of Authors (ASA) and fully support its submission.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on this important issue

Yours sincerely,

*Anne Layton-Bennett
Tasmania*