

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public and anonymous



I'm a fiction author in South Australia, and I'm writing to share some of the challenges my industry faces and what I'd like to see in the next National Cultural Policy.

Creative writing is the backbone of many artforms. The Australian publishing industry generates between \$1.8 and \$2 billion a year. Books are turned into movies, documentaries, TV series, plays, podcasts and more. Yet, at an individual level authors experience paltry incomes on average. Most authors do not ply their trade fulltime; they rely on additional work.

At the same time, the writing industry is under attack from generative AI. We've seen lawsuits around the world, taking on software giants who have stolen creative works to feed into large language models.

It's imperative that writers in Australia are supported; otherwise the industry may all too easily crumble.

Part of our survival revolves around government grants, author talks and community workshops.

We also need writing centres like Writers SA. I wouldn't have a writing career without Writers SA's workshops and networking opportunities. Without writers centres, we'd be lone wandering souls in a highly competitive global creative environment.

As a fiction author in South Australia, I strongly support Writers SA's submission to the public consultation paper. Namely, I ask the government to:

- ensure that the national Writers Centre network receives investment that recognises the ongoing role the centres play;
- support mechanisms that provide payment to authors for creation, risk taking and engagement (including NWCN), contingent on recognised industry rates for authors, illustrators, translators and cultural advisers;
- invest in First Nations writers, illustrators and storytelling and infrastructure, including cultural protocols, community consent, ICIP protections and fair payment for First Nations authors, publishers, Elders and cultural authorities;
- establish a stand-alone Australian Book Fund to support new Australian works and culturally significant publishing, including literary journals;
- encourage community-led writing practice and increase opportunities for writers to receive payment to engage with readers through participatory activities, presentations and talks.

Thank you for reading my submission. Please take active steps to protect, promote and uphold original Australian writing.

Regards

