

National Cultural Policy Submission

1472511

Public and anonymous

Individual



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

I am an author of both adult and children's novels – having (traditionally) published six - soon to be seven - novels.

I live close to the poverty line, and juggle part-time jobs and teaching, in order to keep writing. I am very grateful for PLR and ELR.

I call for the following:

Direct investment in authors and illustrators via:

- o Multi-year fellowships supporting mid-career authors by providing them with time to write.
- o Seed money for emerging writers.
- o A top up to the Lending Rights budget.
- o A basic income pilot, involving 300 authors.

Mandated libraries in every school, nation-wide and extra funds for every school library and to fund authors-in-schools. We have a reading crisis and we know that author visits improve reading rates.

Literary prize money and grant money should not be taxed.

Investment in First Nations-led writing and publishing.

Action on the theft of Australian authors' work by multinational tech companies. For instance:

- o Transparency on copyright inputs for, and outputs from, generative AI models.
- o Research into the impact of generative AI on creative careers and Australian cultural output.
- o Structural solutions to bring multinational AI companies to the licensing table with Australian rightsholders.

Adequate resourcing for Writing Australia to deliver:

- o Increased coordination between federal and state funding.
- o Commissioning of critically-needed research to provide baseline data from which to measure impact for the book industry.
- o 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.
- o Coordination of a book-to-screen pipeline.

Without concrete support, our nation risks the viability of the book industry in Australia, and risks the literacy of Australians.

I support the Australian Society of Authors (ASA) and the Books Create Australia submission.

Yours sincerely,

