

Office for the Arts
Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications and the Arts
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24/05/26

I am a writer whose short story collection was published by University of Queensland Press in 2022. The book was a result of winning an emerging writer award at the 2020 Queensland Literary Awards, and I remain extremely grateful for this opportunity.

I am also deeply appreciative of the initiatives introduced in *Revive* to assist with the sustainability of author and illustrator careers. However, authors have been facing increasingly precarious conditions. I know of many talented writers – including several who've been published in the past – struggling to find publishers for their books, despite being given high praise for the work. Often they're told this is because their books aren't considered likely to sell well enough in the current market. It seems publishers are struggling with declining profit margins, and this has a flow-on effect to writers. Without immediate support, we risk the viability of the book industry in Australia.

We desperately need more support for the writing industry in the form of fellowships and grants for writers, adequate funding for Writing Australia, First Nations writer and publisher support, protection for authors from AI theft, and tax reform to support Australian writers.

We also need reading and literacy to be a priority in schools, so that we continue to be a nation of learners, thinkers and creators. Author visits to schools are a wonderful way to spark enthusiasm for reading and writing in our children.

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Fiona Robertson