

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

[REDACTED]

23 May 2026

We are the Frank Thomas Moorhouse Trust, established to honour the legacy of one of Australia's most celebrated and enduring literary voices. The Trust supports the development of Australian literature and champions the conditions that allow writers to do their most important work. We write in strong support of a robust and well-resourced National Cultural Policy that places the sustainability of author and illustrator careers at its centre.

We are 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.

We are calling for:

- **Direct investment in authors and illustrators**, including: multi-year fellowships to support mid-career authors with dedicated time to write; seed funding for emerging writers; a top-up to the Lending Rights budget; and a basic income pilot involving 300 authors.
- **Tax reform to support author careers**, including tax-free literary prizes and grants, and a tax-free threshold for writers and illustrators.

Yours sincerely,

The Frank Thomas Moorhouse Trust
Helen Lewis
Sandra Levy AO
Tim Herbert
Xavier Hennekinne