

National Cultural Policy Submission

1472763

Public and anonymous

Individual



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

Apologies in advance as I'm doing this on my phone, eleventh hour!

I support the ASA's submission totally and would like to add some recommendations of my own.

I have published eight books with mainstream publishers, fiction, nonfiction and one scholarly monograph.

Being in my senior years with plenty still to contribute — indeed I feel I'm working at my e highest level yet! — I do face the problem of not being new and unknown. I find the most sympathetic and trustworthy publisher for my recent novels is an outfit from Portland, Oregon run by a britisher, more recently living in Germany. (versechorus press). A quick glance at the website will show an active and really unique focus on Australian writing annd Australian cultural history. We follow a less conventional financial model which is good for authors but also produces difficulties. I personally don't seek grants but for authors like me assistance with promotion would mean a lot! VCP is technically a foreign company so there is no particular support to be had. If VCP and/or Australian VCP authors were eligible for financial assistance with promotion and distribution it would be very significant help. I offer my own case simply as an example. The larger issue is the internationalisation of publishing at the more modest commercial levels.

I would offer the opinion that local publishers for reason I guess mostly beyond their control are way more conservative now than previous decades and anecdotally we know that even with majors, only a few proven star authors receive decent promo budgets. Indie, ethical, risk-taking literary outfits such as VCP (there are of course many such) are attempting to fill a huge gap — they publish first time authors as well as aging troupers — and I feel it would be correct, as well as culturally and commercially beneficial to have such endeavours more on the policy radar. Distro and promo!

Good luck with processing of all these submissions.