

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public

Individual

ZEWLAN MOOR



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

I write as a children's picture book author whose work connects with children, parents and teachers in schools, libraries and homes. I support Books Create Australia's call for a National Plan for Books and Reading, particularly support for equitable access to books by children, and increased support for working class Australian authors and illustrators. The issue I am most concerned about is diversity of authentic stories from all walks of life.

In my experience, many children's book creators are middle class, because they are the only people who can afford to write, rather than work in paid employment. This matters because our children tend to receive one perspective in their books, that of the educated, liberal middle class. I think it is also important for working class viewpoints to be conveyed in children's literature. This could be supported through increased funding for grants and programs such as ELR and PLR payments, which compensate creators for library sales through public and school libraries.

Books and reading deliver public benefits the market cannot secure alone, including choose from: participation, democratic debate, and access to Australian stories, ideas and knowledge. Action now would help ensure all Australian (including working class) stories, ideas and knowledge are created, published, discovered, read and valued.