

National Cultural Policy Submission

1472856

Public

Individual

Bec Kavanagh



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

I am a writer, literary critic and educator. Over my twenty-something year career, I have worked with many organisations across the creative sector: I have created and run education programs for the Wheeler Centre and the Stella Prize, as well as worked independently as one of Regional Arts Victoria's Creative Workers in Schools program in 2020/21. I have worked as a bookseller, a speaking agent, a programmer, a writer, a host/public speaker, an educator and an academic. I've witnessed firsthand the impact that stories have on people – I've seen young and old people find confidence in themselves (sometimes for the first time) as a result of being seen in stories, or having the opportunity to share their own story.

I would like to see the cultural policy address the following:

- The issue of AI and copyright (and also a consideration of the threat to work and opportunities)
- The lack of teen-led spaces & programming
- Funding for authors, local journals and local publishers
- Support for education pathways and emerging writers/editors/illustrators.

In addition to this, I wholeheartedly support the applications made by the Australian Bookseller's Association, Australia Reads and the Australian Society of Authors.