

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public

Individual

Martin Shaw



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

I am a literary agent for work from Australia & New Zealand.

The most noticeable feature of recent years to my mind has been a substantial decline in physical book sales in Australia, from which authors earn the lions' share of their royalties (audio & e-books don't by any means make up the shortfall). The need then for substantive assistance has never been greater, which could be by way of such things as a basic wage for artists (as in Ireland) or income tax concessions; tax-free residencies, grants & literary awards; a quota for minimum OZ content on school syllabuses; & support for bookshops who actively promoting local work.

With many authors not persevering with a career so financially unrewarding, the NCP must then without delay make writing careers more sustainable - for authors to simply have a chance to say: writing is my career.