

I am an author with over thirty years' experience of the Australian literary ecosystem and significant exposure to networks for publishing, development, presenting, promotion and production. I am a multi-genre writer (across plays, poetry, fiction and non-fiction) and have three book-length literary publications which have been first published by Australian and/or international publishers as well as translated into other languages. My novella *Saudade* was shortlisted for the fiction categories of the 2019 Prime Minister's Literary Awards and the Adelaide Festival Awards for Literature.

I contributed a submission to *The National Cultural Policy—Revive: a place for every story, a story for every place* which may also be referenced.

In this submission, I would like to focus on policy pillar 3 Centrality of the Artist and 4 Strong Cultural Infrastructure.

In my experience, these two pillars are inseparable; moreover, a cultural policy that does not centre and protect artists' work and livelihoods through strong infrastructure is probably not a policy of practical relevance—to/for artists. I had previously emphasised diversity and the importance of anti-racism as the basis for *The National Cultural Policy* (pillar 2 *A Place for Every Story*). Since *Revive*'s release, however, I believe it is fair to say literature is in crisis. The crisis is due to increasing economic perils, in which context policy objectives should not only be merit-based but about equity and sustainability of the sector and spreading funding among writers.

Further, I am concerned about adverse impacts of institutional and other forms of discrimination and victimisation which have robbed individual authors of professional opportunities and capacity to fully participate, engage and impaired their development and productivity. This has had flow-on effects, creating a culture of toxic fear and censorship. I believe that, rather than diversity per se, reform must now be concerned with funding boosts and consistent implementation of transparent public governance processes that are at arm's-length from and free of Ministerial or other interference (e.g. lobbying). The need to safeguard, preserve and enhance Australian writers' industrial and human rights, psycho-social safety and freedom of speech are the paramount lessons of the last few years.

I am a member of the Australian Society of Authors (ASA) and also support its submission. In the case of a Universal Basic Income for authors pilot, I believe such a scheme should be means-tested to ensure those who benefit are also the most economically in need.