

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public and anonymous

Organisation

HarperCollins Publishers



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

HarperCollins remains committed to growing its investment in Australian publishing; however, several structural challenges threaten the sector's long-term viability. Rising operating costs, intensifying competition from global digital platforms, and the unregulated use of artificial intelligence — which poses a direct threat to author rights and copyright — are placing significant pressure on publishers. Compounding this, poor discoverability of Australian titles and the high cost of exporting constrain both domestic reach and international competitiveness.

Without targeted policy intervention, these pressures will reduce investment in homegrown talent and diminish the diversity of Australian cultural expression available to readers.

HarperCollins unreservedly endorses the submission of the Australian Publishers Association (APA) and its call for a National Plan for Books and Reading. We specifically support:

- Increased and sustained funding for the Public Lending Right (PLR) and Educational Lending Right (ELR) schemes, which provide essential income support for Australian authors and illustrators; and
- Investment in a national book data, metadata, rights, and supply chain infrastructure to improve discoverability and support rights management across the publishing ecosystem.

Adopting these recommendations would give publishers the confidence to increase investment in new Australian works, strengthen the livelihoods of authors, illustrators, editors, and designers, and better support booksellers, libraries, schools, and readers across the country.

Books and reading are foundational to Australia's cultural identity. A well-resourced national cultural policy that supports the publishing sector will ensure Australia continues to produce and celebrate the stories that define us.