

National Cultural Policy Submission

1473169

Public

Individual

Robin Boord



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

At seventy-one I am an emerging author. My first novel will be published by Picador in September 2026 (under the name Nora Borde.) I don't recommend waiting. I am concerned that writers lack support to create the work that matters to readers. We know that the work of authors and illustrators isn't done at night by elves but by humans with bills to pay.

I am grateful for the initiatives introduced in Revive to assist with the sustainability of author and illustrator careers. However, since the introduction of Revive, authors have been facing increasingly precarious conditions. Without immediate support, we risk the viability of the book industry in Australia.

A member of the ASA, I am calling for the adoption of the following practical policies developed by the ASA:

“Direct investment in authors and illustrators via:

Multi-year fellowships supporting mid-career authors by providing them with time to write.

Seed money for emerging writers.

A top up to the Lending Rights budget.

A basic income pilot, involving 300 authors

Investment in First Nations-led writing and publishing.

Solutions to the unprecedented theft of Australian authors' work by multinational tech companies operating within Australia:

Transparency on copyright inputs for, and outputs from, generative AI models.

Research into the impact of generative AI on creative careers and Australian cultural output.

Structural solutions to bring multinational AI companies to the licensing table with Australian rightsholders.

Tax reform to support author careers

This includes tax-free literary prizes and grants, and a tax-free threshold for writers and illustrators.

Adequate resourcing for Writing Australia to deliver:

Increased coordination between federal and state funding.

Commissioning of critically-needed research to provide baseline data from which to measure impact for the book industry.

Express guarantees included in every funding grant, ensuring that authors and illustrators engaged in funded projects will be paid at or above the ASA recommended rate, and that generative AI will not be used to replace or diminish the role of human creators in government-funded projects.”