

# National Cultural Policy Submission

## **Cordite Publishing Inc.**

Hon Tony Burke MP

Minister for the Arts

Good morning, Mr. Burke

I write in enthusiastic support of a co-ordinated funding model via a National Reading & Writing Framework for Australian literature.

As director of Cordite Publishing Inc., a charity non-profit literary organisation on the Registry of Cultural Organisations, and on behalf of our modest-sized team of 12 volunteers, I can say that a robust and, as importantly, stable, investment in Australian literature is a worthy and necessary initiative. It is exciting to learn of ideas in this space at a national level.

Cordite has been publishing for 26 years now, and was a pioneering online literary journal. We began print books in 2015. Our online readership is nearing 700,000 annually, with 41% of that an international audience. We are known worldwide, and bolster the reputation of Australian literature abroad.

Cordite enjoys extensive contacts and collaborative ties to many universities in Australia: our essays, interview and translations are frequently on teaching lists, and many of our print books are prescribed for university courses, as well as various state curriculum reading lists. Too, and as an example of our engagement with education, our free anthology, [20 Poets](#) (soon to be supplanted by *41 Poets*) is widely used across Australia as an academic tool. It's free, and we have encouraged this educational use. It's been accessed over 30,000 occasions by domestic IP addresses since it published in 2017.

Cordite enjoys funding relationships with Australia Council, Arts Victoria, City of Melbourne, Copyright Agency and Create NSW, not to mention myriad other once-off sources. Operations are very challenging when a piecemeal selection of project grants are relied on, not to mention when that funding pool has been steadily decreasing for years. We are not afraid of the detail, time and effort required to seriously and professionally pursue funding, but the current funding environment, including the woefully small total investment available nationwide, simply pits worthy organisations against each other in pursuit thereof. It's a harmful process that needs to be rectified.

Future, increased and stable investment for literature would be a game-changing development for a small organisation like our. We produce world-class literature, and have been at the cutwater of cultural and identity diversity for over two decades.

The Australian literary ecosystem is absolutely worth this effort, what it's future may look like.

Warm regards, and thank you for reading. It means a great deal.