

National Cultural Policy Submission

Submitted: As an artist, As an Individual

Office for the Arts

Department of Infrastructure
Transport, Regional Development,
Communications and the Arts

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18 August 2022

Submission on National Cultural Policy

I am a Western Australian writer of children and young adult fiction. Since 2001, I have published fifteen books for children and young people, many of them award-winning. I have presented to children, teachers, and colleagues across Australia and in the US, Singapore, and Indonesia and chaired a number of arts organisations. Currently I am the Chair of The Literature Centre in Fremantle, which provides quality student workshops and writing programs across Western Australia, inspires teachers with professional learning opportunities, and supports Australia's talented Authors and Illustrators of literature for children and young adults.

As well as supporting the submission of the Australian Society of Authors in its entirety, I would urge the Government to consider the crucial role of writing in creating young people who have the imagination and ability to persuasively express their views, and in creating an inclusive society in which creativity is seen as fundamental to collective and individual wellbeing.

To this end, I would ask that the Government:

- a. Introduce a minimum threshold of Australian-authored content in schools – this is a no-cost benefit to both writers, teachers, and readers;
- b. Build on and formalise existing authors-in-schools programs to increase income for authors, and deliver to students literacy skills, a deeper connection with books, and expertise on writing; and
- c. Better support tertiary arts education, in no small part by reducing the prohibitive costs currently incurred by students enrolled in arts degrees.

I give permission for my submission to be made public and published on the Office for the Arts website. I would be happy to elaborate on my submission as required.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Julia Lawrinson

Writer and consultant