

National Cultural Policy Submission

Sally Bothroyd

I'm a recently published author, but for five years I worked for the NT Writers' Centre, and I'm now on its board. The NT Writers' Centre is a community arts organisation dedicated to promoting and supporting writers in the Northern Territory, including First Nations writers.

The NTWC runs an annual writers' festival which alternates between Darwin and Alice Springs, and this festival has always placed an emphasis on including First Nations authors and storytellers. This aspect of the festival has been embraced by audiences and shows the importance of these stories in Australian culture.

The NTWC would not be able to run this festival without continued support from artists (who create work), arts workers (who often put in many unpaid hours out of a passion for art and culture), cultural institutions (which provide funding and support), enthusiastic audiences, and government funding support.

Authors and storytellers are at the heart of our national culture but are struggling to make a basic living.

The literature sector needs Government support to reach its full potential and to nurture the talent of the future. There is an exciting opportunity to introduce policy settings to support authors work, invest in the creative economy and enjoy the cultural, social, educational, health and economic dividends that follow.

A new National Cultural Policy should include policies that underline the value of arts to Australia, and the value of everyone who works in the arts sector.

I give permission for my submission to be made public and published on the Office for the Arts website.

Yours sincerely,

Sally Bothroyd
Author, and president of NT Writers' Centre