

## **Submission to Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communication on the National Cultural Policy**

13 March 2023

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the National Cultural Policy.

We are a not-for-profit organisation with more than 38,000 members, who are mainly writers, artists and publishers. We are appointed by the Government to collect and distribute copyright fees from the education and government sectors, and to manage the artists' resale royalty scheme. We also manage other copyright licensing arrangements as agent for our members. We collect and distribute about \$100m a year in copyright fees and royalties.

The National Cultural Policy has been warmly welcomed by our members, both for its initiatives and for its sentiment. Writers and artists have felt recognised and valued for their contributions to Australian society. They have also welcomed the clear commitment to this being a whole-of-government policy that will affect policy development and thinking in other portfolios such as education.

Our members have particularly welcomed the commitment to a well-functioning copyright system:

The Government is committed to maintaining a strong copyright framework that works in concert with other legal and policy mechanisms – including funding support for the creative industries, our broader intellectual property framework, the regulation of broadcasting and content industries, and celebration and protection of First Nations arts and culture – to support the success and vibrancy of Australia's cultural and creative sector.

Copyright payments are an integral contributor to the ongoing investment of money, time and expertise by people working in Australia's creative industries, including those working in educational publishing.

Other elements of the policy welcomed by our members include:

- extension of the artists' resale royalty scheme to enable collection of royalties for Australian artists from resales in other countries
- specialist in-school arts education programs
- skills development for the creative industries
- modernising and extending the Public and Educational Lending Right Schemes to include digital content
- establishment of Writers Australia
- legislation to protect First Nations knowledge and cultural expressions, including to address the harm caused by fake art, merchandise and souvenirs

We would be happy to provide the Inquiry with additional information.