

National Cultural Policy Submission



Our mission is to link people and groups throughout the community with stories and experiences to build literacy and learning, so as to enrich lives.

*Patron: Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM,
Governor of Queensland
Vice-Patron: Jackie French A.M.*

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18/08/2022

Submission on National Cultural Policy

Book Links (QLD) Inc. has championed children's storytelling since 2006. We are based in the Queensland Writers Centre at the State Library of Queensland, a hub of activity for readers and writers. We are governed by a dedicated committee of volunteers. Our goal is to establish a centre for story in Queensland that deliver programs to regional areas and provides a world class venue for cultural tourism.

Our many creative and innovative activities include

Annual events

- **Narelle Oliver Lecture** – given by the current Children's Laureate or other esteemed industry experts.
- **Book Links Award for Children's Historical Fiction** – acknowledging the growth and influence of this genre on young readers.
- **Romancing The Stars** – literary 'speed dating' matching authors and illustrators with readers, teachers, librarians and book lovers, promoting new releases and firm favourites.
- **Book Links Mentorship** – members can submit new work for an opportunity to be guided by an editorial mentor.

Ongoing activities

- **Write Links** – a peer support and mentoring group for emerging creators.

- **Story Links** – an online hub for reviews, interviews, book lists and writing competitions.
- **Book Links StoryArts Brisbane (BSAB) Biennial Conference** – workshops, lectures and mentoring for emerging creators, with presentations by leading children’s book creators and manuscript pitching opportunities
- **Travelling Suitcases** – books, keepsakes and curiosities from top Queensland authors transported to schools and libraries to stimulate literacy and creative discussion.
- **Exhibitions** – local illustrators invited to show their art and sell their books.

Authors are at the heart of our national culture, but our organisation struggles to deliver the programs that promotes our current authors and helps to develop new ones when we are operating with only a volunteer workforce and no paid administration. We would love to be involved in taking authors and illustrators into schools. We have the expert knowledge of the industry, but we don’t have the financial support or infrastructure to put our plans in action.

We would like to see the Australian Government

- support an ‘authors and illustrators in schools’ program
- establish centres for story in each state that can deliver programs to regional areas and provide world class venues for cultural tourism
- provide more funding to run story-based festivals, events and exhibitions for schools
- help to provide teacher-librarians in schools to support the above ideas

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

Yours sincerely,
Jenny Stubbs

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