

# National Cultural Policy Submission

**Michael Hayward, The Text Publishing Company**

Submitted: On behalf of a not-for-profit arts organisation; As an individual

Attention The Hon. Tony Burke

Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations

Minister for the Arts

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister Burke,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit to the formation of a National Cultural Policy. I have two big suggestions to make, both of them game-changers in the way we support writing and publishing in Australia.

Both these ideas belong in a National Cultural Policy because we need to summon all of our entrepreneurial energy to promote Australian books internationally, and because we need to ensure that Australian literature is being taught as widely as possible in our schools and universities.

Suggestion #1: Australia is long overdue to become the Guest of Honour at the Frankfurt Book Fair, the biggest and most important book fair in the world. If this were to happen it would expose our writing to the attention of the world. It is a dispiriting fact that Australia has never been Guest of Honour. You can find a list of Honour Countries [here](#). As you will see, many key nations in our region have been Honour Countries (India, Japan, Korea, China, New Zealand, Indonesia) and the absence of Australia from this list is a glaring omission.

Suggestion #2: There are only two professors of Australian literature in the entire country, one at the University of Western Australia and the other at the University of Melbourne. It is a disgrace that the Australian National University does not have a chair of Australian Literature. A National Cultural Policy which set out to create a Chair of Australian Literature in every state and territory would in a stroke transform the teaching of Australian literature at every level throughout the country.

Please don't hesitate to be in touch if you require more information, and thank you for the opportunity to submit.

Sincerely,

Michael

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