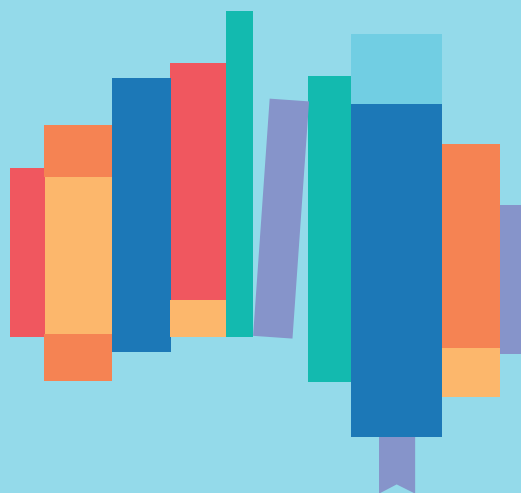


BOOKS CREATE AUSTRALIA ELECTION 2025

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Australia's **authors, publishers, booksellers and librarians** urge candidates to back books and reading.

Fair policies and investment are vital as reading rates decline, school libraries are cut, business costs rise, author earnings fall and AI disrupts creativity.

Australian books, stories and knowledge publications connect, reflect and inform us.

Support for our reading nation is needed now more than ever.

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1 Invest in reading

Fund a national reading strategy to engage all Australians in the benefits of reading.

2 Guarantee support for libraries

Mandate school libraries and grow public library collections.

3 Back Australian stories and publishers

Create a Book Fund to publish new Australian works, and support local printing.

4 Ensure AI is fair

Legislate fair opportunities for creators, innovators and users.

5 Fund Australian authors

Invest in our authors to capture Australian stories and knowledge.

6 Grow our local bookshops

Support book vouchers and author events to back local businesses.

7 Sustain our literary life

Fund the organisations and places where readers gather, writers learn and ideas are shared.



Australian Library and
Information Association



AUSTRALIAN
PUBLISHERS
ASSOCIATION

AUSTRALIAN
SOCIETY
of AUTHORS

BookPeople



1 Invest in reading

Fund a national reading strategy to engage all Australians in the benefits of reading. A reading nation is a happier, healthier and more connected country.

A national approach to reading for pleasure will:

- ✓ Coordinate the strategy to increase reading, through Australia Reads.
- ✓ Deliver campaigns that boost reading habits.
- ✓ Track the social impact of increased reading.
- ✓ Embed reading as a norm across schools and communities.

2 Guarantee support for libraries

Mandate well-resourced school libraries with trained librarians, and support Australia's 1700 public libraries to grow their collections.

Investing in libraries means investment in education, literacy, community and an informed society.

Our libraries promote print, digital and media literacies, and provide free training and support.

- ✓ Conduct a national audit of school libraries.
- ✓ Set minimum standards for school libraries.
- ✓ Increase funding for national literacy training programs.
- ✓ Fund library print and digital collections, including Australian books.

3 Back Australian stories and publishers

Invest in the supply chain to ensure that Australian stories are on shelves, in classrooms, and in the hands of readers.

Australian publishers produce our best fiction, histories, children's and young adult books, learning materials and science works.

As print costs rise and tech platforms crowd out Australian voices, support for local publishing is crucial.

- ✓ Secure the viability of printing books locally, and locally sourced paper.
- ✓ Create a Book Fund to publish new Australian stories and capture works of cultural significance.
- ✓ Invest in data systems to increase the visibility of Australian books, learning materials and research.

4 Ensure AI is fair

AI is rapidly transforming our world, changing the book industry and education sector in profound ways — offering opportunities while posing significant risks.

Australia must legislate to ensure ethical AI for creators, innovators, and users.

- ✓ Mandate transparency in the development and use of AI tools.
- ✓ Safeguard the interests of creators, readers and the wider book industry.
- ✓ Ensure creators are compensated for use of their work.
- ✓ Respect and recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sovereignty over materials.

5 Fund Australian authors

Invest in our authors to capture and reflect Australian stories and knowledge. Australian authors light the spark of our national life, writing the books that entertain, inspire, and educate.

Supporting authors sustains careers, brings forth new Australian stories, engages students, and fuels our creative economy.

Our authors need investment to:

- ✓ Create new works through grants and fellowships, providing focused time and space to write.
- ✓ Connect with readers through events, residencies and programs in communities, libraries, bookshops and schools.

6 Grow our local bookshops

Australia's bookshops and booksellers enliven our suburbs and towns, drive local economies, and foster reading in our communities.

Our bookshops make a significant contribution to our literary ecosystem, providing advice to readers and supporting Australian authors as they build their careers.

To thrive, our bookshops need:

- ✓ Cultural vouchers for books, helping readers to buy Australian and read more local stories.
- ✓ Author events programs, connecting with new readers and bolstering night-time economies.
- ✓ Rental subsidies, ensuring bookshops thrive in urban and rural areas.

7 Sustain our literary life

A reading and thinking nation needs a thriving literary ecosystem – from festivals and book clubs to literary magazines, agents, writers' centres, children's literature organisations, and literacy agencies.

- ✓ Fund Writing Australia.
- ✓ Support the organisations and places where readers gather, writers learn and ideas are shared.

A vital creative industry



30,000+ professionals work in Australia's book industry.



25,000+ new Australian titles are published each year.



160+ million loans from public libraries annually.



70+ million books sold annually, generating **\$2 billion** in revenue.



1.55 million books, ebooks and journals available for sale.

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