



NSW BRANCH
THE CHILDREN'S
BOOK COUNCIL
OF AUSTRALIA

SINCE 1945 — YOUR CONNECTION TO STORY

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The Honourable Don Harwin MLC,

CBCA NSW Branch is extremely concerned to hear of the decision by **Create NSW** to end the current state funding of \$175,000 per year in December to **Writing NSW**.

CBCA NSW Branch, part of the Children's Book Council of Australia, known throughout Australia for the *Children's Book of the Year Awards* and *CBCA Book Week*, is a not-for-profit organisation run by volunteers, which promotes quality Australian literature and its creatives to the entire NSW community through a range of services including professional development courses for teachers and industry professionals, and provision of rich learning resources on our website for adults and children. We have strong sub-branches in regional areas. CBCA NSW Branch receives no government funding.

Our operations centre is located within the **Writing NSW** building, where we have, not only affordable rent, but also access to the hub of creative individuals, many of whom assist us by volunteering. We also assist **Writing NSW** in providing services for writers and illustrators interested in producing books for children. Losing the opportunity to rent this space amongst various other creative people would be detrimental to our organisation.

Writing NSW holds the Kids & YA Festival which is a unique annual celebration of writing for children and Young adults which supports and encourages aspiring writers for this age group.

CBCA NSW Branch is concerned that cuts to funding are occurring despite **Writing NSW** being recommended for ongoing funding by the state's Literature Board, the group that advises the Minister for the Arts on applications.

Clearly all Arts sector organisations are suffering as a result of the pandemic. It is essential that the writing of the Australian voice continues during this time, and that our children are supported by the continuous production of stories that enrich our lives. Remember that the written story is always able to be accessed during times of isolation.

We request that the decision to cut funding be reversed, and that **Writing NSW** continue to be funded so that it can continue its valuable operations with confidence.

Liz Bowring
President
CBCA NSW Branch