



Australian Library and
Information Association



Books Create Australia update November 2018

About Us

Books Create Australia is an alliance of those working in the Australian book industry who all agree: a reading nation makes for a better nation.

With that in mind, authors, publishers, libraries and booksellers have come together as Books Create Australia to take collaborative steps to preserve, promote and value Australian books and writing not only in the short-term, but also in the future. Books Create Australia is continuing to explore a shared 10-year vision for a thriving Australian book industry.

The four peak bodies meet twice a year to progress this agenda.

Achievements

Australian Reading Hour

A highly successful annual campaign, which takes place every September, encouraging people to discover and rediscover the joy of reading. It is supported by authors, libraries, booksellers and publishers, and sponsored by the Arts Division of the Department of Communications and the Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund. <https://www.readinghour.org.au/>

Parliamentary Friends of Australian Books and Writers

Headed by Senator the Hon Linda Reynolds (Coalition) and MP Graham Perrett (Labor), the Friends group has celebrated the Australian Reading Hour, the Miles Franklin Award and Library Lovers' Day. It attracts leading politicians from all parties and provides an opportunity to talk about the key issues affecting our creative industries.

Australian Inclusive Publishing Initiative

AIPI has been hailed as a world leader in terms of a collaborative model, bringing together commercial and not-for-profit partners around a common goal, to develop and promote an "accessible by design" approach to book production in Australia. AIPI's ambition is to end the 'book famine' that means that over 90% of published works globally are inaccessible to those who are blind or vision impaired.

Book cover agreement

The Australian Publishers Association (APA) and the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) negotiated a landmark agreement to allow libraries to use book covers to promote books and authors without seeking copyright permission each time. This made it easier for libraries to create displays, posters, websites and social media.

In progress

Storytime and 'Jolly Postman' agreement

The four organisations have agreed to create an agreement similar to the book cover agreement to cover storytimes outside the library and in bookshops, and the replacement of removable parts for children's picture books.

Identifying Australian created books

The four organisations have agreed to increase the visibility of Australian created books, to help consumers 'buy local'. The APA is developing ways to identify Australian produced books and is preparing an application to register a certified trade mark.

Shared election agenda

The four peak bodies have workshopped the issues they will bring to the fore for the next federal election and drafted a shared agenda under the headings of literacy, culture and the economy.

For more information

Peak body contacts:

ABA – Robbie Egan, CEO regan@aba.org.au

ALIA – Sue McKerracher, CEO sue.mckerracher@alia.org.au

APA – Michael Gordon, CEO michael.gordonsmith@publishers.asn.au

ASA – Juliet Rogers, CEO juliet@asauthors.org