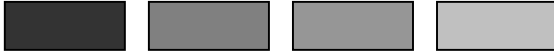




ASSESSMENT MEETING REPORT



Literature Board

APPLICATION CLOSING DATE
15 May 2005

AUSTRALIA COUNCIL
372 ELIZABETH STREET SURRY HILLS NSW 2010
PO BOX 788 STRAWBERRY HILLS NSW 2012

Phone (02) 9215 9000
Toll-free (1800) 226 912
Fax (02) 9215 9111
www.ozco.gov.au

THE INFORMATION IN THIS REPORT IS EMBARGOED FROM PUBLIC
DISCUSSION UNTIL 18 October 2005



ABOUT THIS REPORT

September 2005

This report provides a context to the assessment of applications submitted to the Literature Board on 15 May 2005. It provides some statistical analysis of the results of the grant round and more general comments made by the Board during the assessment of applications.

The Literature Board's Assessment meeting was held on **5-9 September 2005**. Applications were assessed in the New Work, Fellowships and Key organisations (Triennial) categories.

ATTENDANCE

There are currently seven Board members:

(Dr) Peter Goldsworthy (Chair) (SA) is a novelist/poet/librettist whose works have been translated into most major European and Asian languages. Among his many literary awards are the 1982 Commonwealth Poetry Prize and the Australian Bicentennial Literary Prize for Poetry (1988). Other major works include the novel *Maestro*, the novella, *Jesus wants me for a sunbeam* and libretti for the Richard Mills operas, *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll* and *Batavia* which recently won the Helpmann Award for Best New Australian Work (2002). His most recent novel, *Three Dog Night*, won the 2004 FAW Christina Stead Award and was shortlisted for the Miles Franklin Award (2004).

(Dr) Ann Galbally (Vic) is an art historian and writer and is a Professorial Associate at the University of Melbourne. She has published monographs on Arthur Streeton, John Peter Russell and Frederick McCubbin, co-edited *Letters from Smike, The Letters of Arthur Streeton* (1989) and written two biographies, *Redmond Barry, An Anglo-Irish Australian* (1995) and *Charles Conder, The last bohemian* (2002) which won The Age Prize for non-fiction in 2003. Interested in public patronage, Ann published *The Collections of the National Gallery of Victoria* in 1987 and co-wrote and co-curated *The First Collections, The Public Library and the National Gallery of Victoria in the 1850s and 1860s* (1992). She has served on the Board of the State Library of Victoria and is now a member of its Readers and Writers Committee.

Alan Gould (ACT) is a poet, novelist and essayist. He has published eleven volumes of poetry, the latest of which is *The Past Completes Me: Selected Poems 1973-2003* (UQP), six novels, the latest of which is *The Schoonermaster's Dance* (HarperCollins) and one collection of essays, *The Totem Ship* (Duffy & Snellgrove). He has won a number of awards including the NSW Premier's Literary Award for Poetry in 1981, the National Book Council Award for Fiction in 1992, the Royal Blind Society Talking Book of the Year in 1998, the Philip Hodgins Medal and Prize for services to Australian Literature in 1999 and *The Courier Mail* Book of the Year Award in 2001 for his novel *The Schoonermaster's Dance*. His fiction has been published in Britain, USA, France and the Netherlands. He has also been poetry editor for *The Canberra Times* and the National Library's *Voices* literary magazine.

Glynn Parry (WA) was born where *Billy Elliott* was filmed. When he was twelve, his family escaped to sunshine and surf. While best known as a writer of fiction for children and young adults, his short fiction for adults has also been widely published. His ten novels for children and teenagers include *LA Postcards* which won the 1995 WA Premier's Prize and was commended in both the Australian Vogel and Children's Book Council Awards, *Monster Man*, *Radical Take-Offs*, *Spooking the Cows*, *Stoked* and *Scooterboy* which won the 1999 WA Premier's Prize for Young Adult Books. Glynn serves on the State Library Board of WA and the National Advisory Council of the ABC. He is currently writing the memoir of his youth. His dream is to own a cottage by the sea.

Bronwyn Lea (QLD) was born in Launceston, grew up in Queensland and Papua New Guinea, and lived in California for twelve years. She is the Series Editor, with Martin Duwell, of the annual *Best Australian Poetry* anthology (UQP) and the author of *Flight Animals*, which won the Wesley Michel Wright Prize for Poetry, the Fellowship of Australian Writers Anne Elder Award, and was shortlisted for a number of other major prizes. She is currently the



ABOUT THIS REPORT

Poetry Editor at the University of Queensland Press and lectures in Poetics and Narrative at the University of Queensland.

Sophie Masson (NSW) was born in Jakarta, Indonesia and came to Australia with her family at the age of five. A dual citizen of Australia and France, she lives permanently in Australia and has published more than 35 novels for adults, young adults, and children. Several of her novels have also been published in the UK, USA and Germany, and optioned by film producers. Her Young Adult fantasy, *The Hand of Glory*, was Best Young Adult Novel in the 2002 Aurealis Awards for Science Fiction and Fantasy. Sophie writes frequently for newspapers, journals and magazines in Australia, UK and USA. She is also an editorial adviser for the Australian literary magazine, *Kalimat*.

(Dr) Jack Hibberd (Vic) has written over 30 play, including *A Stretch of the Imagination*, which has been produced in the UK, USA, Germany and China (the Shanghai production in 1987 was the first performance of an Australian play in that country). Dr Hibberd has also written three novels including *Memoirs of an Old Bastard*, and poems published in two volumes, *Les Vins des Amants* and *The Genius of Human Perfection*. He regularly reviews plays and books for the media and practices medicine part-time.

For this meeting the Board was assisted by **8 Participating Advisers** –

Clare Forster, former publisher (Vic)
Chris Gallagher, director, Australian Script Centre (Tas)
Stephen Gray, novelist, (NT)
Craig Munro, writer, literary historian and former publisher (Qld)
Cath Kenneally, poet, novelist and reviewer (SA)
Malcolm Knox, novelist and journalist (NSW)
Julia Lawrinson, young adult writer (WA)
Matt Ottley, children's book writer and illustrator (NSW)

The following Literature staff attended this meeting:

John Emery	Director
Jill Jones	Acting Manager
Nicola Evans	A/ Senior Program Officer
Robyn Tooth	A/ Assistant Program Officer
Priscilla Gundelach	A/Program Officer
Jane Gillespie	A/Assistant Program Officer
Dallas McMaugh	LOTE Coordinator
Leighton Elliot	Administrator
Jane O'Sullivan	Administrative Officer
Claire Diment	Administrative Officer

The following Australia Council staff attended parts of this meeting –

Atul Joshi, Director, Key Organisations
Kevin Golding, Finance and Business Analyst, Key Organisations
Kurt Olofsson, Client Manager, Key Organisations
Margaret Burke, Books Alive Co-ordinator



CHAIR'S COMMENTS

The meeting was held over five days and its agenda and pre-meeting reading totalled more than 4,500 pages, to which can be added the support material, mainly in book and manuscript form from New Work and Fellowship applicants. While the workload at this annual meeting is always daunting for Board members and advisers, it is also a privilege and delight to witness the extraordinary range of literary endeavour taking place in Australia. The vitality and variety of Australian writing is indeed a cause for celebration. For the first time at this September meeting, the Board was also involved in assessing applications from triennial clients.

The Board welcomed to the meeting its newest Board member, distinguished playwright, Jack Hibberd, and the new Director of Literature, John Emery, a former Board member. It was also a pleasure to welcome eight participating advisers who assisted the Board's decision-making on this occasion. Participating advisers are invited to Board meetings on the basis of their specialist knowledge of particular genres. Their contribution to this meeting was invaluable and resulted in some robust and far-reaching discussions focussing both on creative work and also the merits of our triennially-funded organisations. I thank them all for their hard work, wisdom, insight, and their willingness to balance a necessary passion with an equally necessary spirit of compromise. All who attended showed a tremendous commitment to Australia literature.

The Board also welcomed input to the discussion from members of Council's new Key Organisations section who assisted us in evaluating these applications and, in particular, providing invaluable advice and guidance on specific finance and governance issues.

In general, the numbers of applications to New Work and Fellowships were down by 15%. There appears to be no one obvious reason for this decrease.

Reflecting the diversity of Australian society, the Board encourages applications for projects in languages other than English (LOTE). In this grant round the 21 LOTE applications covered 10 languages. This year there was swing away from Chinese and Vietnamese applications towards Eastern and Middle European language groups. The Board funded three LOTE applications involving projects in Chinese, Hungarian and Serbian. They were spread across the genres of fiction and children's literature. A number of other LOTE applications were highly regarded.

In assessing LOTE applications, the Board draws on the expertise of at least two highly-qualified external assessors for each application. There are currently 61 languages represented on the Board's database of LOTE assessors which is updated annually.

Limited funds always mean tough decisions and there were still many excellent New Work projects that the Board would have liked to support but was unable to do so. It is always difficult to deliver disappointing news to so many applicants. I would urge those who missed out this year to keep writing and apply again – several writers who missed out last year were successful this year. To those whose applications succeeded in this hotly contested grant round, on behalf of the Board I congratulate you and wish you every success with your project.

Peter Goldsworthy



OUTCOMES

PROGRAM TITLE	APPLICATIONS (Number)		SUCCESS %	APPLICATIONS (Amounts - \$)	
	RECEIVED	APPROVED		REQUESTED	APPROVED
New Work (Emerging)	103	23	22.3%	\$1,320,000	\$305,000
New Work (Developing)	170	35	20.6%	\$3,495,000	\$760,000
New Work (Established)	124	27	21.8%	\$4,090,000	\$835,000
Fellowships	6	3	50.0%	\$480,000	\$240,000
Key Organisations – Triennial Grants	3	3	100.0%	\$486,000	\$340,659
Totals	406	91	18.9%	\$9,871,000	\$2,480,659

A full list of approved grants is attached.



- **General (New Work and Fellowships).** As ever, the challenge at the meeting was to decide among many worthwhile New Work and Fellowship applications over a number of literary genres. Unfortunately, a number of applications that scored highly against the selection criteria were unable to be supported due to budget constraints.
 - In a few cases, smaller than requested grants were awarded. In reaching their decisions about awarding lesser amounts, the Board took into account the relative scale of proposed projects.
 - **Project descriptions (New Work).** Applicants need to take into consideration that their project description enables the Board to assess whether the writer has the capacity and, where applicable, the resources to complete the project. It was noted that some project descriptions were too vague to the extent it was hard to evaluate their merit. In assessing project descriptions, Board members look for engaging, well-developed ideas and a sense of the applicant's passion for the project.
 - **Guidelines (New Work and Fellowships).** A number of applications were deemed ineligible this year due to the applicant's failure to provide a project description. Others were deemed ineligible because they did not supply sufficient or clear details on the works they were relying on to establish eligibility. Others appeared to base their applications on previous Literature Board categories and eligibility requirements from many years ago. Applicants are reminded that they should consult the current year's Australia Council's *Support for the Arts Handbook* as well as the requirement details and checklist on the application form to ensure their applications provide all the necessary information and are submitted to the correct category. Staff are available to advise these matters as well.
- **Project descriptions (New Work, poetry).** Although poets have the option to provide details of their poetic directions rather than submit a specific poetry project, some poets did not address this requirement to a sufficient degree for the Board to assess the applicant's proposed activities during the grant period. Poets need to demonstrate an understanding of their own writing processes, where they place themselves within their genre and how their proposed writing activities will contribute to their poetic development.
 - **Support material (New Work).** Once again this year, the Board noted discrepancies of quality between projects and support material to the extent that the support material sometimes undermined confidence in an otherwise excellent project. Writers will present their case for funding more strongly if their support material relates in some way to their project. They will also be better served if they choose support material which is relatively recent, if this is at all possible, as it is more persuasive in demonstrating how their current writing style suits and relates to their project.
 - Applicants should note that applications will be deemed ineligible if there is no support material in the genre for which funding is requested.
 - **Fellowships.** Applicants to the Fellowships category should note that the selection criteria include: "substantial critical recognition and demonstrated contribution to Australian literature". The literary merit of the project will not be sufficient to be competitive in the assessment process. Established writers with five or more published major works should, therefore, consider carefully whether they would be best applying to the Established writers' category rather than to Fellowships.



NEW LITERATURE BOARD PARTNERSHIPS AND INITIATIVES

The Board is actively pursuing its initiatives for young and emerging writers.

Young and Emerging Writers 2006

The Board decided once again to offer two separate initiatives in 2006.

The **Young and Emerging Writers Initiative** will be offered by invitation to organisations providing mentorships for young and emerging writers aged 30 and under.

The Board continues to provide an opportunity to organisations to apply for mentorship programs targeting writers of any age or experience through its annual Skills and Arts Development (Organisations) program grant category. It sees this particular initiative as supporting the aims of the Government's Young and Emerging Artist's Initiative to foster "young and emerging" writers.

Submissions will be invited in October.

Write in Your Face

The successful **Write in Your Face** initiative is for young writers 30 years and younger who are working either individually or collaboratively. It is aimed at one-off projects which do not currently fit within the Board's eligibility guidelines for grant applications.

The Board wants to foster young writers' engagement with the creative process in innovative ways. Write in Your Face will be advertised widely throughout youth networks.

Further information and application details will be made available on the Australia Council's website in October.

Indigenous playwrights to Paris

A partnership initiative between the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board, the Theatre Board, and the Literature Board will send three Indigenous Australian playwrights to attend a reading of their plays in Paris in early 2006. They will be part of an event called "Un Ocean d'Iles" ("An Ocean of Islands"), being planned by the Comedie Francaise, which would consist of the public reading on stage of texts by authors from Oceania (contemporary theatre or poetry), by actors from the Comedie. The Theatre de l'Ile in Noumea is coordinating the event, which will take place in the Studio Theatre in the Louvre, on January 25 2006.

Research into literary publishing

The Board will undertake a research project in 2005-6 aiming to provide an in-depth analysis of literary publishing in Australia including statistical information on literary publishing and sales, an outline the structure of the literary publishing sector (including global, independent and micro publishers), and an analysis of the economic conditions of literary writing. It also aims to include case studies of individual writers' career trajectories.

Increased grants amounts for 2006 – Established writers

The Board has decided to increase the amount offered through the Established Writers category of New Work from \$25,000 to \$30,000 pa. This recognises the fact that writers with careers of long-standing still do not earn sufficient amounts from their literary work alone.



STEPS IN THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

BEFORE THE MEETING

Staff check eligibility and register applications on Council's computer database. You will receive a letter acknowledging your application with an application number and staff contact for your reference. Staff analyse the statistical information provided by applicants to help Council measure the effectiveness of its grant programs. Staff prepare applications and support material for the Board assessment meeting. Applications are made into booklets and sent to Board members. Peers are invited to participate as advisers to the Board at the meeting bringing additional expertise and perspectives to the assessment process. Staff also check and manage any conflicts of interest that Board members and peers have with applications and study the applications in order to provide information to the Board as required (see below *).

AT THE MEETING

ASSESSMENT

Board members assess your application against the published selection criteria. Board members may examine support material at the meeting or by prior arrangement.

Board members may also take into account information from other sources such as:

- their attendance at performances and other events;
- reports from members of the Register of Peers who may be asked to provide formal assessments of designated works;
- reviews, videos and recordings, referee reports and other material;
- any previous Australia Council grant acquittal reports and performance agreements you may have had; and
- communication with State and Territory agencies.

Boards may decide not to fund the application at the level requested. While your application may meet the stated selection criteria, this does not guarantee you a grant. The Australia Council receives many more applications than it can support. The success of your application must rest ultimately on the merits of your proposal against published criteria and in competition with all the other applications considered for funding.

NOTIFICATION OF DECISION

All applicants will be notified of the Board's decision by mail during the month indicated in the Handbook and the application forms. Information about grant decisions will not be released over the phone.

IF YOUR APPLICATION IS SUCCESSFUL

If your application is successful, you will receive a letter of agreement offering you a grant. This letter outlines the terms and conditions of the offer. Payment of a grant will not be made until you have accepted the conditions by signing and returning the letter of agreement.

ACQUITTAL OF GRANTS

Acquittals are the artistic and financial reports that you must provide after completing your project. Acquittal reports enable the Council to fulfil its obligations of accountability as well as allowing us to learn about the success or otherwise of your project. These reports are a valuable way for you to contribute to the policy development work at the Australia Council.

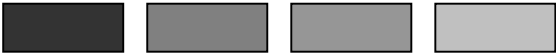
**Staff do not make funding decisions. Staff provide information and advice to Council, Boards and advisory bodies to assist their determination of policy and assessment of grant applications. Staff also provide information to potential grant applicants and administer the Australia Council's grant programs to enable a simple, fair and efficient assessment of applications.*



GRANTS LIST

Literature Board
KEY ORGANISATIONS - TRIENNIAL GRANTS
Round Id: 14540 Closing Date: 15-JUN-2005

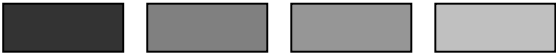
Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
Australian Society of Authors Ltd (The)	2006-2008 Activities	NSW	\$153,450.00
Australian Writers Guild Ltd	2006-2008 Activities	NSW	\$61,380.00
The Eleanor Dark Foundation Ltd	2006-2008 Activities	NSW	\$125,829.00
Grants this Round: 3		Amount Approved:	\$340,659.00



GRANTS LIST

Literature Board
FELLOWSHIPS
Round Id: 14359 Closing Date: 15-MAY-2005

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
Kate Llewellyn	Non-fiction, poetry	NSW	\$80,000.00
Margo Lanagan	Young adult literature	NSW	\$80,000.00
Philip Salom	Poetry	VIC	\$80,000.00
Grants this Round: 3		Amount Approved:	\$240,000.00



GRANTS LIST

Literature Board
NEW WORK - DEVELOPING WRITERS
Round Id: 14360 Closing Date: 15-MAY-2005

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
Armstrong, Sarah	Fiction	NSW	\$25,000.00
Bardon, James	Fiction	NSW	\$25,000.00
Bauer, Michael	Young adult fiction	QLD	\$25,000.00
Beligan, Anamaria	Fiction	VIC	\$15,000.00
Bell, Gail	Literary non-fiction	NSW	\$25,000.00
Beudel, Saskia	Non-fiction	ACT	\$25,000.00
Christine Balint	Fiction	VIC	\$25,000.00
Cunningham, Sophie	Fiction	VIC	\$15,000.00
Docker, Peter	Fiction	WA	\$25,000.00
Elmslie, James	Non-fiction	SA	\$25,000.00
Emery, Nigel	Poetry	NSW	\$25,000.00
Emma Vuletic	Writing for performance	NSW	\$25,000.00
Farrell, Michael	Poetry	VIC	\$25,000.00
Greenwood, Mark	Children's literature	WA	\$15,000.00
Hammond, Rosalind	Writing for performance	VIC	\$10,000.00
Handelsmann, Peter	Fiction (Hungarian)	VIC	\$15,000.00
Holdforth, Lucinda	Non-fiction	NSW	\$25,000.00
Hosking, Corinna	Fiction	SA	\$25,000.00



GRANTS LIST

Literature Board
 NEW WORK - DEVELOPING WRITERS
 Round Id: 14360 Closing Date: 15-MAY-2005

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
Lukic, Tatjana	Poetry	ACT	\$25,000.00
Martin, Sylvia	Non-fiction	NSW	\$25,000.00
McLennan, Wayne	Non-fiction		\$25,000.00
Mews, Peter	Fiction	VIC	\$25,000.00
Murphy, Thomas	Writing for performance	NSW	\$25,000.00
Oxley, Elizabeth	Poetry	TAS	\$25,000.00
Papaellinas, George	Fiction	VIC	\$25,000.00
Schulz, Matthew	Writing for performance	NSW	\$15,000.00
Silvey, Craig	Fiction	WA	\$25,000.00
Spencer, Beth	Fiction, writing for performance, new media	VIC	\$25,000.00
Starr, Kimberley	Fiction	QLD	\$25,000.00
Steggall, Stephany	Non-fiction	QLD	\$10,000.00
Townsend, Ian	Fiction	QLD	\$25,000.00
Usher, Lindy	Fiction	E6 6AF	\$15,000.00
Wood, Charlotte	Fiction	NSW	\$25,000.00
Zdravkovic, Ljubomir	Children's Literature (Serbian)	NSW	\$15,000.00
Zeng, Fan	Fiction (in Chinese)	NSW	\$10,000.00
Grants this Round: 35		Amount Approved:	\$760,000.00



GRANTS LIST

Literature Board
NEW WORK - EMERGING WRITERS
Round Id: 14361 Closing Date: 15-MAY-2005

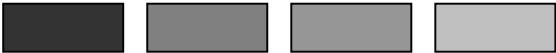
Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
Beesley, Luke	Poetry	QLD	\$15,000.00
Burckhardt, Olivier	Non-Fiction	VIC	\$15,000.00
Collyer, Emilie	Writing for Performance	VIC	\$10,000.00
Cox, Andrew	Non-fiction	VIC	\$10,000.00
Fink, Hannah	Non-fiction	NSW	\$15,000.00
James Boyce	Literary non-fiction	TAS	\$10,000.00
Johnson, Amanda	Fiction	VIC	\$15,000.00
Kate Hamilton	Non-Fiction	NSW	\$15,000.00
Livingston, Martin	Fiction	WA	\$15,000.00
Matthews, Bernard	Non-fiction	NSW	\$15,000.00
McKenna, Andrew	Fiction	VIC	\$15,000.00
McKimmie, Mal	Poetry	VIC	\$15,000.00
Melanson, Nicole	Poetry	NSW	\$5,000.00
Molitorisz, Sacha	Fiction	NSW	\$15,000.00
Nayman, Shira	Fiction	NY	\$15,000.00
Red Earth Words	Writing for performance	NSW	\$15,000.00
Rodden, Bronwyn	Fiction	NSW	\$15,000.00
Savidge, Jaya	Poetry	QLD	\$15,000.00



GRANTS LIST

Literature Board
NEW WORK - EMERGING WRITERS
Round Id: 14361 Closing Date: 15-MAY-2005

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
Skelton, Jane	Fiction	NSW	\$15,000.00
St Vincent Welch, Sarah	Fiction	ACT	\$10,000.00
Thompson, Matthew	Non-fiction	NSW	\$15,000.00
Van Loon, Julienne	Fiction	WA	\$10,000.00
White, Petra	Poetry	VIC	\$10,000.00
Grants this Round: 23		Amount Approved:	\$305,000.00



GRANTS LIST

Literature Board
NEW WORK - ESTABLISHED WRITERS
Round Id: 14362 Closing Date: 15-MAY-2005

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
Armano, Venero	Fiction	QLD	\$25,000.00
Boey, Kim Cheng	Non-Fiction	NSW	\$15,000.00
Bouras, Gillian	Non-Fiction	VIC	\$50,000.00
Brophy, Kevin	Poetry	VIC	\$25,000.00
Brown, Pamela	Poetry	NSW	\$25,000.00
Burns, Joanne	Poetry	NSW	\$25,000.00
Carroll, Steven	Fiction	VIC	\$25,000.00
Ciddor, Anna	Children's Literature	VIC	\$30,000.00
Cole, Catherine	Fiction	NSW	\$15,000.00
Cortese, Raimondo	Writing for Performance	VIC	\$25,000.00
Daylight, Tegan	Fiction	NSW	\$30,000.00
Dessaix, Robert	Non-Fiction	TAS	\$50,000.00
Edmond, Martin	Fiction	NSW	\$25,000.00
Gardner, Scot	Young adult literature	VIC	\$25,000.00
Graham, Gordon	Fiction	NSW	\$15,000.00
Hartnett, Sonya	Young adult literature	VIC	\$50,000.00
Henderson, Graham	Writing for Performance	NSW	\$15,000.00
Hill, Anthony	Young adult literature	ACT	\$50,000.00



GRANTS LIST

Literature Board
NEW WORK - ESTABLISHED WRITERS
Round Id: 14362 Closing Date: 15-MAY-2005

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
Jennifer Compton	Fiction	NSW	\$15,000.00
Khan, Adibuz	Fiction	VIC	\$25,000.00
Kinsella, John	Poetry	WA	\$25,000.00
Lomer, Kathryn	Young adult literature	TAS	\$25,000.00
McMullin, Ross	Non-fiction	VIC	\$25,000.00
Moorhouse, Frank	Fiction	NSW	\$50,000.00
Pybus, Cassandra	Non-Fiction	TAS	\$50,000.00
Valentine, Alana	Writing for Performance	NSW	\$50,000.00
Zable, Arnold	Non-Fiction/Fiction	VIC	\$50,000.00
Grants this Round: 27		Amount Approved:	\$835,000.00
Total Grants: 92		Total Amount Approved:	\$2,530,659.00

