



Perth Writers Festival 2015, Photo by Ali Judd, Fileds Skies Photography

Western Australia Writing Sector, Future Directions

> THE CONTEXT

Western Australia has a diverse, vibrant and valued writing sector with a strong history of nationally and internationally recognised authors and publishers. Despite promising growth in book publishing, employment in the writing sector has remained static and under pressure from challenges that impact writers on a national and international scale. These challenges include the increase of digital technology for production and dissemination, the rise of consumer created content and shifting markets and consumer habits.

> THE BRIEF

Positive Solutions was engaged to identify the strengths and opportunities for the Western Australian writing sector, and to advise on adjustments to policy or programs to enhance the sustainability of writing careers. The objectives included identifying specific challenges and examining strategies for the sector by analysing:

- The impact of digital media technologies on the creation, publishing and consumption of written works
- A review of funding systems and guidelines from other jurisdictions
- WA's current employment patterns, opportunities, incomes and markets
- Changes to the level of Australian content on stage and screen
- Challenges faced by the industry, the strengths of the industry, and potential opportunities

> OUR APPROACH

Positive Solutions worked closely with the Department of Culture and the Arts to undertake a review of relevant studies and research relating to both the writing sector and the WA cultural ecology. The study included significant key stakeholder consultation and input, a review of industry trends, a literature review, and benchmarking research.

Positive Solutions moderated a full day workshop outlining scenario planning with DCA staff and key representatives of the WA writing sector to determine preferred options and potential strategies for realising and growing opportunities for writers in the region.

> THE RESULTS

The result of the study included an initial findings paper, visual maps of the WA writing sector, a discussion document informing workshop content, and a final report outlining local and global market opportunities and future directions for the sector.

SEE ALSO:

- > [Ipswich Arts and Cultural Strategy](#)
- > [Coffs Harbour Cultural Strategic Plan](#)
- > [Armidale Arts and Cultural Strategic Plan](#)
- > [AlburyCity Creative Economy Strategy](#)
- > City of Perth Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy