



Australian Society of Authors

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ArtsNSW
Funding Administration
PO Box A226
Sydney South NSW 1235

Monday, 7 June, 2010

Dear Madam/Sir,

Re: Support Letter for Application for Arts NSW 2011-2013 Triennial Arts Funding Program by Western Sydney Young People's Literature Project

I write on behalf of the ASA in support of the Western Sydney Young People's Literature Project's application for Triennial Funding to ArtsNSW. The Australian Society of Authors is the peak professional association for Australia's literary creators and illustrators, with members across all genres of writing and illustrating, including children's and YA writers in fiction and non-fiction.

The Western Sydney Young People's Literature Project has already established itself as an important cultural organisation in Western Sydney and is working in very practical ways to support community and cultural development in the region and bring a much-needed focus on literature to the region's already flourishing arts sector.

Through her artistic program, the project officer, Judith Ridge, is providing employment opportunities for many writers and illustrators that are both challenging and rewarding. Examples are the short-term residency projects focusing on writing and illustrating graphic novels and picture books and an extended writing and publishing workshop program for gifted senior primary school aged children. These programs and other book-based events, offered to young people in schools and libraries and other venues, is extending them in both reading and writing and are significantly enhancing the profile of authors and illustrators with both children and with teachers, librarians and parents.

The capacity of the project to deliver quality programming has been acknowledged recently by the awarding of it the CAL fellowships: an opportunity for writers, including new writers, to work with school students. This work will add to the writing master classes and picture book illustration workshops and author visits already programmed.

The ASA strongly supports the project's long-term goal to aid the development of a reading culture in Western Sydney and establish a Children's and Youth Literature Centre in the region. We argue that a substantial commitment is required from all levels of government to achieve this important goal.

I have every confidence in the Western Sydney Young People's Literature Project's ability to deliver a successful program and projects that will have important outcomes for the children and young people from the diverse communities living in greater Western Sydney.

If further information is required, please do not hesitate to contact me via phone or email (per address details above).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Loukakis". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Angelo Loukakis
Executive Director