



Payment for Writers at Events Policy

DRAFT v1.0

Board endorsed: 25 October 2018

Board review date: 25 October 2020

Purpose:

To provide guidance on how the ACT Writers Centre ('the Centre') will treat requests from the community to provide writers for workshops and events ('events') at 'no cost'.

Principles:

The first objective of the Centre expressed in the Constitution is:

- a. To promote the rights and interests of writers;*

Policy

The Board believes that all writers must receive suitable payment (whether or not monetary) for their creative effort. To provide 'free' work on the basis of the writer receiving exposure is a common request. The Board does recognise that exposure can be useful for early career writers but nevertheless it rarely compensates for the time involved for the writer. Further, working for 'exposure' tends to devalue the work of the writing profession and leads to community expectations that writers should receive little recompense for the work that they do.

Therefore, as a general policy, the Centre will not promote the provision of writers for any event unless the writer receives appropriate remuneration, either in monetary terms or suitable other payment (eg free accommodation, travel, food etc).

Exceptions

If the requesting organisation is a charity or non-profit organisation with no ability to provide recompense to the writer then *at the Centre Director's discretion* the Centre may consider providing a writer for the event.

Examples

A children's medical charity requests the Centre to provide a writer to give an after dinner speech at a fund-raiser. Under such circumstances, as long as the writer's direct costs are paid for (eg travel and accommodation [if interstate]) and the writer is not expected to pay for their meal, then it would be appropriate for the Centre to find a suitable writer.

A primary school requests a writer to provide a short course in story writing to its year 6 students but points out that as a non-profit organisation it cannot pay the writer. As it is apparent that the school does have funds for the purpose of employing staff or can seek payment from parents then it would not be appropriate for the Centre to assist the school regardless of it being a non-profit organisation.

A senior citizens charity requests a writer to run a short course in poetry for its members. While the charity itself may not have funds, the members do and thus it would be appropriate for the writer to be paid. In addition, providing 'free' assistance in such circumstances undermines the services (such as workshops) provided by the Centre.

How much should writers be paid?

The Centre Board endorses the Australian Society of Authors pay rates.

<https://www.asauthors.org/findananswer/rates-of-pay#FREELANCE%20WRITING>