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Simon Behrakis MP Member for Clark C/o – <u>Laura.Ross@parliament.tas.gov.au</u>

Dear Mr Behrakis

Thank you for your constituency question of 12 March about the Government's support for writers and authors in Tasmania.

Tasmania has inspired a rich story-telling tradition, and our government is providing assistance to support the literary community.

Through Arts Tasmania, grants are offered to Tasmanian artists, including writers. Individuals can apply for support to undertake work, such as drafting a novel, which enables them to further their careers, enrich their practice, and bring projects to fruition.

We have launched a new grant program to fund organisations to deliver strategic initiatives or services, one of which is specific to serving the literary sector: the Hobart Readers and Writers Festival.

Hosted in Hobart, a UNESCO City of Literature, the festival promotes Tasmanian writers and offers professional development activities. It will connect literary culture and showcase First Nations writers and stories. The recipient of this grant will be announced shortly.

Government also demonstrates its commitment to the state's writing community by recognising excellence. The Tasmanian Literary Awards honours outstanding writers residing in Tasmania, promotes local talent, and raises the profile of the literary sector.

These awards come with a monetary prize, which can help support future creative endeavours and are administered by Arts Tasmania on behalf of the Tasmanian Government.

Yours sincerely

Hon Madeleine Ogilvie MP
Minister for the Arts and Heritage