

From David Bridie, composer, musician, writer, producer

Artistic director Wantok Music Foundation

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Subject: Endorsement of Catherine Deveny's Application for Arts Funding

Dear Members of the Selection Committee,

I write to enthusiastically and sincerely endorse Catherine Deveny's application for Arts Funding for Individuals and Groups to research and develop her new work, "Cliché: A Memoir about Class, Culture, and Language."

Having observed Catherine's profound influence on our arts community for over 30 years, I am convinced she is the ideal candidate to not only benefit from this opportunity but also to enrich the broader cultural landscape and pioneer the genre of memoir. This grant would be a significant and crucial investment in Australian literature.

Catherine is undeniably one of Australia's most talented and resilient writers, navigating challenges such as dyslexia, bipolar disorder, and experiences of childhood poverty and family dysfunction. Her work in memoir, essays, and columns is unparalleled, offering a perspective rarely heard in mainstream discourse. Empowered by education, Catherine, a neurodiverse atheist and feminist progressive, has left an indelible mark on Australian culture, inspiring countless writers and artists and contributing deeply to national discussions.

Through her dynamic career as an author, writer, columnist, comedian, and the visionary behind Gunnas Writing Masterclass, Catherine has impacted the lives of over 10,000 individuals and hundreds of thousands, possibly millions others through her writing. Her dedication to inclusivity and diverse storytelling has reshaped our creative community, making it more accessible and inspiring to all.

Despite her pioneering spirit, Catherine has had limited opportunities for professional development. This grant presents a perfect opportunity for Creative Australia to invest in her vision, with the nation poised to reap significant cultural rewards.

Having worked alongside Catherine, I have witnessed firsthand how her neurodiversity and resilience resonate with others, particularly those marginalized in the arts. She serves as a beacon of empowerment, encouraging individuals to embrace their authenticity and challenge societal norms.

Catherine's charisma, wit, and ability to connect with others are her superpowers. Providing her with the opportunity to develop and research "Cliché: A Memoir about Class, Culture, and Language" would not only be transformative for her but for Australia's writers, readers, enthusiasts, students, and Gunnas alike. I wholeheartedly endorse her for this opportunity, confident that she will approach it with passion, authenticity, and a commitment to pushing creative boundaries.

Should you wish to discuss further or require additional insights, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Warm regards,

David Bridie

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