



SENATOR THE HON ROD KEMP

A MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER FOR THE ARTS & SPORT

I am pleased to have been invited to contribute to *Oz Kids in Print*, an Australian Children's Literary Board (ACLB) initiative. Publishing the works of our talented and inspiring young Australians is an innovative and exciting way to encourage children to develop their literacy skills.

In recognition of the contribution *Oz Kids in Print* makes to children's literacy, the Australian Government recently provided funding to assist with the distribution of the magazine to regional and remote areas of Australia. This will allow more children to have the chance to read the work of their contemporaries and be inspired to send in their own work.

The Australian Government is committed to promoting Australian authors to readers across the country. The government's *Books Alive* program not only encourages reading, but promotes Australian books to the general public, including children. It also provides support to Australian writers, publishers and retailers to encourage the continued growth of the Australian book sector.

In December last year I had the honour of presenting trophies at the ACLB 2004 *Young Australian Writers Awards*, where I had the opportunity to meet gifted young writers from all over the country and recognise their literary skill and success.

I thank the ACLB for their dedication to children's literacy throughout Australia. The work of the ACLB on a voluntary basis is not only admirable, it's also very important for the education and future wellbeing of our children. In recognition of this work, the ACLB was also recently appointed to the Register of Cultural Organisations, which allows donors the incentive of a tax deduction when contributing to projects like the *Young Writer's Awards*.

I would like to encourage all Australian children to continue to develop their reading and writing.

For further information regarding the *Books Alive* program please visit www.booksalive.com.au.

For further information regarding the Register of Cultural Organisations please visit http://www.dcita.gov.au/arts/arts/register_of_cultural_organisations.

Regards

ROD KEMP



Hon. Rod Kemp M.P.
Minister for the Arts
and Sport