

THANK YOU LIBRARY STAFF

Lending rights: making Australian book creators dance around the kitchen since 1974.

The staff of the Public and Educational Lending Right schemes, administrated by the Department of Communications and the Arts, wish to convey their sincere thank you to all the public and educational library staff who have assisted them in the annual surveys for the past 45 years.

Each June, the Public Lending Right (PLR) and Educational Lending Right (ELR) schemes make payments to Australian creators and publishers in recognition that income is lost through books being available for free multiple use in Australian public and educational lending libraries. The schemes' purpose is twofold: to compensate for lost income and to encourage the growth and development of Australian writing and publishing.

The schemes make a big difference to Australian writers, illustrators and publishers. Best-selling Australian children's books author Aaron Blabey recently described what it felt like to receive his first lending rights payment:

'I got a very pleasant surprise in the form of a magical deposit in my bank account. It seems 'that Lending Rights thing' had kicked in. It wasn't a huge amount, but it was enough to make my wife and I dance around the kitchen. It was like a gift from the heavens. That payment, and the annual instalments that have followed, have helped to keep us afloat and, crucially, it kept me writing. For me, and I suspect for many authors, it was a really big deal.'

Lending Rights payments are based on the estimated number of copies of books held in public and educational lending libraries across Australia. Since the implementation of PLR in 1974 and ELR in 2001, creators and publishers have been registering their work for inclusion in the annual surveys. This year more than 56,000 books were surveyed with the help of many librarians, library staff and service providers.

The Lending Right schemes have been supported by library staff for more than 45 years now.

Without the vital data and expertise provided, these payments would not be possible. And that's why the Lending Rights team (like Aaron), would like to say thank you.

'That I now am able to make books to help fill them [the libraries] is a privilege almost too great to process, and that libraries return the favour by providing a lifeline to authors through completing the Educational Lending Right School Library Survey is a situation almost too good to be true. And, yet, it is true, and I for one would like to say, "thank you".'

Aaron Blabey has written many best-selling books for children, including *The Bad Guys*, *Pig the Pug* and *Thelma the Unicorn*. Aaron's thoughts on lending rights first appeared in an article of the quarterly school library magazine *Connections*, published by the School Catalogue Information Service (SCIS). For further information about Lending Rights visit the [website](https://www.arts.gov.au/LendingRights) of the Department of Communications and the Arts. 🌟

LENDING RIGHTS TEAM

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Australian Government
Department of Communications and the Arts

Lending Rights

Encouraging the growth and development of Australian writing and publishing

For more information visit
[arts.gov.au/LendingRights](https://www.arts.gov.au/LendingRights)

