

COVID-19 update

Dear members of the Writing NSW community,

Things have changed a great deal over the seven days since our last Newsbite. I hope you are all staying safe and finding ways to remain creative and connected under the new conditions created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Writing NSW team is working hard to ensure we can continue to support our community and the writing sector more broadly in these challenging times. In response to the evolving situation and based on the advice of health authorities, we have made the difficult decision to suspend all face-to-face programs at our building in Callan Park from today. Our staff are now working from home and will be happy to answer your inquiries by phone, email or [via the contact form on our website](#).

We are exploring creative new ways to support writers and, where possible, we will be replacing our face-to-face services with online alternatives. All of our [online courses](#) will run as scheduled and we will be working hard to expand those and other online programs over coming weeks. We will have more to say about that in future issues of Newsbite.

We know many of you will have lost professional opportunities over this period, as writers' festivals and literary events are cancelled and other opportunities for paid employment are reduced. This is particularly tough for writers with books coming out this year who will not have access to the usual promotional channels. The ACT Writers' Centre has set up an [online survey](#) to help writers document their economic losses as a result of the pandemic, and I encourage you to participate if you have been affected.

In difficult times, it is more important than ever to remain connected, to keep telling our stories, and to engage with the stories of others whose experience



is different from our own. This is a time to write, to read and to listen. In the quiet that comes with slowing down our over-busy lives, I hope we will all find space for the reflection and imagination that will help us to come back stronger.

With best wishes from all of us at Writing NSW,

Jane McCredie

CEO