

30 July 2020

Tēnā koe Hannah,

Ngā mihi for sharing your whakaaro. Creative New Zealand tautoko your sentiments that a strong reviewing culture is important to Aotearoa New Zealand and the literature sector.

We'd like to clarify that Creative New Zealand did not cut funding to the New Zealand Review of Books; in 2019, Peppercorn Press made an application to the highly competitive, contestable Arts Grants round, and unfortunately, it was unsuccessful. These decisions are carefully considered: applications were assessed by external peer assessors and subsequently discussed by a panel.

It's worth noting that demand for arts funding, particularly in the contestable grants space that we inhabit, has been intensifying for some time and this highly competitive contestable funding comes from a limited budget.

We acknowledge your disappointment that Peppercorn Press was declined for funding in the second Arts Grants round of 2019. For context; in that round we received 296 applications requesting a total of \$12,365,935 and could only approve 94 grants totalling \$4,028,855. In addition to experiencing an increased demand for arts funding, we also received higher quality applications delivering to our strategic outcomes.

Following that funding round, we met with the Peppercorn Press board to discuss the outcome of their application and their future options, and offered guidance to make another application in the next Arts Grants round. We'd also like to clarify that Peppercorn Press made the decision to withdraw a funding application for *Hooked on NZ Books He Ao Ano*.

We provide a significant amount of funding in the literary area, with grants in recent years towards book reviewing in literary journals and online platforms such as The Spinoff, ReadingRoom (Newsroom.co.nz's books section), The Sapling, Takahe and the websites of the Academy of New Zealand Literature, The Coalition for Books (through Arts Grants and Arts Continuity Grants), Landfall, Landfall Review Online, The Pantograph Punch, and Read NZ Te Pou Muramara, which provides reviews of the latest books for children and young adults, through our Investment Programme.

We also provide support for other parts of the literary sector, including grants for writers and illustrators to create new work, publishers, residencies, festivals, awards (the Prime Minister's Awards for Literary Achievement, the Ockham Book Awards, and the New

Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young Adults), competitions, skills development opportunities and more.

We want to assure you that Creative New Zealand is committed to continuing to tautoko the literature community to ensure access to high-quality literary discourse such as reviews, and to help writers and publishers increase readership and sales.

Ngā mihi



David Pannett

Senior Manager, Strategy & Engagement | Pou Whakahaere Matua, Rautaki me te Tūhono