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QWC RESOURCE SHEET # 8

Pay Rates

Queensland Writers Centre supports the professional development of authors. We believe authors should be paid for their work, as in any other profession.

What can I earn as an author?

Rates of pay vary widely across the publishing industry. It's not uncommon for writers to "sell" a short story or poem to a magazine, anthology or newspaper that offers no payment at all. At the other end of the scale, freelance writers can make a good living from articles they sell to professional magazines and newspapers, and for business writing contracts in the private sector.

You will need to make a decision about what payment you are prepared to accept, weighed against the benefits to you as an author. These benefits may include establishing publication credits and raising your profile.

How much is an advance?

In book publishing, advances to first-time novelists can be as low as \$2500, or even lower from small presses or educational publishers. You should expect to receive royalties of at least 10% of the recommended retail for all books sold (once you have earned back the value of your initial advance).

QWC recommends that writers do not sign any publishing contract without first receiving legal advice. For information about how to get publishing contract advice, see QWC's **Resource Sheet # 12 - Contracts and Legal Advice**.

How much should I charge for my writing?

QWC recommends that writers always negotiate payment for their work and that, where possible, they charge the rates and conditions recommended by the Australian Society of Authors (ASA).

You can access the current rates set by the ASA at their website www.asauthors.org