

David Bridie, composer, musician, writer, producer

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Artistic director Wantok Music Foundation

Sun Nov 19<sup>th</sup>

[Paris Literacy Residency Program Selection Committee (Keesing Studio)]

Attention Ellen Dwyer, International Engagement Adviser

Dear Members of the Selection Committee,

I write to wholeheartedly endorse Catherine Deveny's application for the Paris literacy residency program. Having closely witnessed Catherine's transformative impact on our arts community over 30 years, I could not be more convinced she is the perfect candidate to not only benefit from this opportunity but also enrich the broader cultural landscape.

Catherine's dynamic career as a columnist, comedian, and the visionary behind Gunnas Writing Masterclass has touched the lives of over 10,000 individuals and hundreds of thousands more through her writing. Her commitment to inclusivity and diverse storytelling has redefined our creative community, making it more accessible and inspiring to everyone. Because she is a pioneer and a trailblazer she has very few opportunities for professional development. This residency could not be a more perfect investment for Creative Australia. Our nation will reap bountiful rewards.

As someone who has worked alongside Catherine, I've seen first-hand how her neurodiversity (dyslexia) and experiences of overcoming adversity resonate with others. She has become a beacon of empowerment, especially for those traditionally marginalized in the arts. Catherine encourages individuals to break free from societal norms and embrace their most authentic selves.

Her recent foray into international collaboration during the Gunnas International retreat in France showcased her ability to connect with a global audience. This unique cultural exchange has undoubtedly added depth to her artistic practice, making her an ideal candidate for the Paris residency. Her charm, wit, curiosity and friendliness means cross cultural collaborations will blossom. Her ability to connect and encourage others is her superpower.

Catherine's eagerness to deepen her teaching practice by immersing herself in French as a beginner speaks volumes about her dedication to growth. Her journey, rooted in personal challenges and triumphs, provides a rich perspective that she generously imparts to her students and the wider community.

In summary, Catherine Deveny's participation in the Paris literacy residency program promises to be a transformative experience not only for her but for the entire artistic community writers, performers, audience and enthusiasts. I wholeheartedly recommend her for this opportunity, confident that she will infuse the program with passion, authenticity, and a commitment to pushing creative boundaries.

Should you wish to discuss further or require additional insights, please feel free to reach out.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "David Bridie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, stylized 'D' at the beginning.