

Professor Steve Ellen  
MB, BS. M.Med (Psych), MD, FRANZCP.  
Honorary Clinical Professor,  
Department of Psychiatry,  
University of Melbourne.  
Sellen2407@gmail.com  
Steven.ellen@unimelb.edu.au

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Dear Selection Committee,

Re: Catherine Deveny's application for the Creative Australia: Arts Projects for Individuals and Groups

I am writing to enthusiastically endorse Catherine Deveny's application for funding to support the initial research and creative development phase of her new memoir, 'Cliché. A Memoir.' Catherine's pursuit of this endeavour is commendable and promises to be a unique and brave addition to the literary landscape.

Throughout my decade-long acquaintance with Catherine, I have been deeply impressed by her unwavering dedication to the arts and her ability to inspire others through her writing and teaching. I have worked with Catherine in multiple settings, including at the Peter Mac Cancer Centre, where she created a writing program for people with cancer and as a co-author of our book on mental health.

As a seasoned writer, comedian, and educator, Catherine's career has been characterised by a relentless pursuit of authenticity and a willingness to explore the complexities of the human experience.

What truly distinguishes Catherine is her unique perspective as a working-class, dyslexic bipolar woman who has triumphed over adversity. Her memoir, poised to delve into cultural, class, and language themes, offers a fresh, insightful and diverse perspective.

The proposed initial research and creative development phase in Paris represents an unparalleled opportunity for Catherine to immerse herself in a culturally rich environment that will undoubtedly inform and enrich her writing and develop her as an artist. By undertaking full-time French immersion classes and reflecting on the memoir genre to make it her own, Catherine demonstrates a maturity and artistic vision that is rare and important for readers and other writers.

Moreover, Catherine's commitment to sharing her experiences with the Gunnas community and her students at Peter Mac underscores her dedication to education and community engagement. By engaging with diverse perspectives and fostering creativity, Catherine enriches her understanding and contributes to the broader artistic dialogue.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support Catherine Deveny's application for the Creative Australia: Arts Projects for Individuals and Groups funding. Her unique perspective, coupled with her passion for storytelling and fostering creativity, make her an ideal candidate for this opportunity. I am confident that Catherine's memoir will captivate readers and serve as a catalyst for important conversations about identity, resilience, and the power of storytelling.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Ellen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steve Ellen  
MB,BS. M.Med(psych). M.D. FRANZCP