17 Top Australian Literary Agents Accepting Submissions

If you are an established writer or a new author thinking of how to sell your work, don't worry, a Literary Agent can handle that for you. They can approach publishers and negotiate deals on your behalf.

Literary agents represent a range of creative artists, illustrators, composers, adult and children's fiction authors, playwrights, script editors, scriptwriters, and journalists. While some do not accept some genres, others represent a wide field of literary endeavors.

Here, we have listed 17 top Australian literary agents accepting submissions.

1. Lauren Miller Cilento

In 1997, Lauren joined the HMMG Pty Ltd from Sydney University as a Receptionist, after some time, she started working part-time as Client Management Assistant whilst completing her studies.

She worked as a Senior Agent in the company for 5 years before being appointed CEO in 2007 under the then chairman of the company, Harry M. Miller who doubles as her father.

HMMG's ownership was taken over by Lauren in 2010 under a new structure, managed, revived the company and represented high-profile and upcoming media, literary and producer talent.

Since the company's established interest is in film and television rights, the office move to Fix studios further ignited its passion as well as continued leverage of innovative talents.

She has been a chairman and a member of several boards including Brain Cancer Action for the NSW Cancer Council, Young Garvan for the Garvan Institute as Chairman, Salvation Army Media Advisory Board as Member, guest panelist on two series of Gaven for the ABC.

She is presently the CEO of HMMG. You can contact her <u>here</u> but first, go through her <u>submission guidelines</u>.

2. Jacinta Di Mase

Jacinta di Mase management is a literary agency representing writers and illustrators for quality commercial fiction and non-fiction for the adult trade market, young adult fiction, and picture books.

Jacinta di Mase is the founder, director and lead agent of Jacinta di Mase management and she accepts quality commercial fiction and non-fiction for adult and children's market.

She helps develop a client's manuscript and proposal by working closely with them and only make submissions to publishers when the work has great commercial potentials.

Jacinta worked for more than 20 years in the book industry before establishing her own agency in 2004. She worked for 10 years in two of Australia's premier literary agencies: Australian Literary Management (ALM), and Jenny Darling & Associates.

She graduated from RMIT Graduate Diploma of editing & publishing in 1996 and also studied copyright law at Melbourne University. She has been a member, representative, and president of several boards including

- Australia Council for the Arts, visiting International Publishers Program Committee between 2013 and 2016 as a member.
- Australian Literary Agents Association (ALAA) as President.
- RMIT Program Advisory Committee for the Master of Writing and publishing as a member.
- ALAA representative for the Australian Inclusive Publishing Initiative.

She is also working across several industries to make 'inclusive by design' a reality for readers in Australia with a print disability.

Jacinta di Mase management is committed to the creation of quality books

that engage, entertain, and inspire readers.

Please check her <u>submission guidelines here</u> or contact her directly <u>here</u>.

3. Danielle Binks

Danielle holds a Bachelor of Communications from Monash University, also a graduate of RMIT's Professional Writing and editing program.

She was a regular writer for the Stella Prize Schools Blog and Kill Your Darlings Literary Journal, focusing on young adult literature and feminism.

She was elected to the grassroots LoveOzYA committee in 2015 to celebrate and elevate Australia's National Youth Literature. A collection of Australian Young Adult short stories, 'Begin, End, Begin: A #LoveOzYA Anthology, inspired by the #LoveOzYA movement and released by Harper Collins, had Danielle as Editor and Contributor in 2017.

She joined Jacinta di Mase Management in 2016 as a Literary Agent and has an interest in Australian authors of Young Adult (YA) and Middle Grade (MG) fiction works.

4. Jo Butler

Jo Butler is a Literary Agent at the Cameron Creswell Agency. She joined the agency in 2014 and has worked for over 25 years in the book publishing industry as an editor of fiction and non-fiction, and as a publisher of literary fiction.

She obtained LLB, Law at Macquarie University and BA (Hons), English Literature at the University of Sydney.

Please send an initial inquiry by <u>email</u> or contact her through her professional profile, but first go through her <u>submission guidelines</u>.

5. Clare Forster

Clare joined Curtis Brown in 2007, but before then, she was a book publisher

at Penguin Books. Curtis Brown Agency located in Melbourne is housed in a Brunswick Studio where she leaves.

Authors across fiction, non-fiction, children and illustrated books are people she has worked with. Curtis Brown is the largest and oldest literary agency in Australia. They represent writers in Australia and New Zealand and also represent the interest of diverse clients and literary estates, including young emerging writers.

She can be contacted through <u>email</u>. For full information regarding submission of manuscript, notes and full submission guidelines, click <u>here</u>.

6. Grace Heifetz

Grace joined Curtis Brown in 2002 when she returned to Australia after working in a restaurant and food PR in San Francisco in 1997 with groups such as Alice Waters Edible Schoolyard Project and Slow food, San Francisco.

Though she grew up in Sydney and Blue Mountains, she stayed a short while in London before returning to San Francisco again in 2000 where she was involved with Independent Radio producers, The Kitchen Sisters.

The Sonic Memorial Project, an online Sound Installation and living archive which explains the history and events of the World Trade Center and the Peabody Award-winning NPR series Lost & Found sound was managed by her project. She can be contacted through email.

Before contacting her, go through the submission guidelines.

7. Gaby Naher

Naher Agency was established in May 2008 by Gaby Naher as Director. She worked as a literary agent, bookseller, and publicist in Sydney, New York, and London. She has a Doctorate of Creative Arts and an author of four books.

The Naher Agency is a literary agency located in Sydney that specializes in quality fiction and non-fiction for adult readers. The agency develops a client's manuscript to their greatest potential by working closely with them before

representing them to media organizations and publishers.

They are known for offering passion, attention to detail, professionalism and international experience to its clients. Check for <u>submission guidelines</u> or contact Gaby Naher through <u>email</u> or <u>Twitter</u>.

8. Jane Burridge

The Other Woman and Company established in 1996 have Jane Burridge as the director and agent. She represents book designers as well as children's fiction, adult fiction and non-fiction, which cuts across travel, memoir, biography, and humor.

The agency also represents designers associated with the publishing industry. Contact the literary agent first through <a href="mailto:emailto

The Other Woman and Company also represent authors and producers in film, television, and publishing. Jane also works with writers across genres of history, journalism and the great Aussie pursuits of surfing and cricket.

She is also known to have an interest in black humor and dystopian tales from time to time.

9. Selwa Anthony

Born in an Australian town of Cowra, NSW, Selwa Anthony's passion for books was ignited when she receives her first library card from her father at the age of eight.

Her father emigrated from Lebanon to Australia in the 1920s; he loves Australian writers and this love for the country's literature was passed to Selwa.

Selwa is a passionate Australian and owes much of this to her parents who were the catalyst to her lifelong love affair with books. She has a very successful author management agency, Selwa Anthony Author Management Agency reestablished in 1984.

She pioneered the first breed of popular Australian fiction writers after signing up her first popular fiction author – The Late Evan Green. After 26 years, Selwa had successful authors on her list to include Belinda Alexandra, Tara Moss, Diane Armstrong, and the list continues.

Selwa's career began in the 1960s when she worked in the book section of a large department store. Ten years later, she worked in a major book company in Sydney as a retail and marketing manager where she featured Australian books at the front of the store.

Selwa had her own radio book chat program during this time aired throughout Australia and revised books on the midday movie show with Bill Collins. She became a literary agent after a beat selling Australian Author, Colleen McCullough commended her when she said that 'Selwa has the best eye for anyone's manuscript I have known and should become a Literary Agent'.

Selwa's agency is one of Australia's leading author's management agencies growing from just a couple of authors in 1988 to over 60 authors today including best-sellers and award winners.

Her book, "Succeed with me", shares her formula for success and positive outlook on life written by Jimmy Thomson.

10. Sharon Galant

Sharon is the founding director of Zeitgeist Media Group Literary Agency located in Europe. For over 10 years, she has worked in the book and publishing industry. Her career started with an independent publisher in Brussels, Editions Complex which specializes in history, literature and international relations.

She managed Charterhouse bookstores, a major English Language bookstore chain in China in 2004. She also reviews every title published about China when she was the buyer and events organizer and she met new and emerging authors, both Chinese and long-standing experts.

Sharon is a fiction enthusiast although she likes non-fiction that is thought-

provoking. Her previous career in international aid organizations (European Commission, CARE International) brought her to live in many parts of the world, including Eastern Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. She handles manuscript in French, English, and Dutch and can communicate in Hebrew and Mandolin.

Zeitgeist Media Group Agency was founded in 2006 by Sharon Galant and Benython Oldfield when they met in Shanghai, China. At that time, Sharon was running a chain of English Language bookstores while Benython was on an Asia link grant searching for Chinese writers to represent in the West.

After they both signed some writers, Sharon returned to her home city in Brussels while Benython returned to Sydney. Their lists, agent overseas and domestic writers continued to grow. Zeitgeist represents talented writers and illustrators from around the globe, whether it is penning books, theater, television, and film, print or online, Zeitgeist manages them and their associate's media careers. She can be contacted here but go through the submission quidelines first.

11. Benython Oldfield

Benython is the Sydney based Director of Zeitgeist Media Group. He has been in the media and publishing industry for 20 years. At ABC Radio, Channel 7, Radio 2UE, he worked as a producer.

Benython has BA Communications, Journalism from Charles Sturt University, Sydney, Australia. He started as a Senior Media Strategist at Random House, Australia, representing well known and first-time authors.

The publisher's fact-finding tour to China he attended made him develop an interest in Asian writing as he worked with Chinese writers like Xinran Xue, Xialon Gou, and Jung Chang. In 2006, he was awarded a grant by Asia link and the Australia China business council to search and represent new Chinese writers in the west.

Benython lived in Shanghai, China for 5 months, during this period, he signed Chinese writers to Zeitgeist Media Group and was a member of the committee of the Shanghai International Literary Festival. He was also a publicist at Allen & Unwin.

He has been working as a Director, Literary Agent and Publicity Manager at Zeitgeist Media Group, Sydney; Brussels since 2007.

Zeitgeist Media Group is a Writer's Agency with offices in Sydney and Brussels. They represent writers and illustrators residing in Europe, Asia, America, and Australia. They have been able to develop Chinese Writers that you will be astonished. The agency's publicity department with Benython as Manager has been able to make a difference compared to other agencies, and this helps generate unsurpassed media coverage for writers and their work.

Benython was a member of an Advisory Board of the New South Wales Writers Center for 2 years. You can contact him here or through his professional profile.

12. Sarah Davies

Sarah Davies founded the Greenhouse Literary Agency in 2007 after a long career as a UK children's publisher. The agency accepts writers from Australia and New Zealand.

Sarah has been an editor for a long time and has wide experience in marketing, rights and negotiating contracts. Her publishing contracts in countries like the USA after residing there for several years gives her a different view of the children's book industry.

She accepts fiction by non-American authors, from Middle Grade through Young Adult and across all genres but she does not accept Picture books unless from clients she initially represented for older fictions. She loves heart-touching stories, strong, hooky, layered plots, gorgeous but strong writing.

She is looking for big, magical worlds derived from non-western mythologies with unique, hooky contemporary fiction involving unreliable narrators with interesting perspectives, structures or timelines, multicultural settings, and diverse characters.

Stories involving the ocean, mysteries that are intriguing, relating to history which also portrays characters and settings of all kinds is what she loves in Young Adult (YA).

Sarah is looking for adventurous fiction, but also classic-voiced and heartfelt stories for girls in Middle Grade (MG). She has a soft spot for stories of friendships, magical realism and new ways of interpreting the classic "Coming of Age" troupe, and also fresh hook matched by strong writing.

Click <u>here</u> to go through her manuscript wishlist.

She can be contacted directly on <u>twitter</u> but go through her <u>submission</u> guidelines.

13. Richard Pine

Richard has spent his entire career representing authors who inspire him thereby helping them build a wide, loyal community of readers who are also inspired by their work. He grew up on Long Island and graduated from the University of Pennsylvania but now lives in Westchester County where he spent some time thinking about books and their writers.

He is a literary agent at Inkwell Management. His authors/clients include a novelist, journalist, and experts with specific subjects whose narrative ideas thrill, challenge and enrich the reader's lives and minds.

These clients include Katherine Dunn, Susan Cain, Susan Orleans, and Andrew Weil. He can be contacted by <u>email</u> or check <u>here</u> for submission guidelines.

14. Kimberly Witherspoon

One of the most prestigious and successful literary agencies in Manhattan, Inkwell Management, was founded by Kimberly when she was 26 years, with clients who are frequently published around the globe. She is a literary agent and graduated from Brown University with a BA in International Relation in 1984, a founding Board member of the Bronx Academy of Letters, a member of the Authors Guild.

Inkwell represents major literary prize winners and many world's bestselling and best-loved authors. As a significant and innovative player in the publishing industry, Inkwell enjoys a considerable international reputation. Its team consists of foreigner's rights department and a contract manager in addition to its full-time agents and their assistants.

They have agents in Boston, Dallas, Australia and also join forces with leading literary agencies in every foreign market.

Kimberly is looking for original ideas, riveting stories, and great writing. For the past 16 years, he has represented best-selling authors of both fiction and non-fiction including Carol Cassella, David Chang, Eloisa James, Neil Jordan, and Cindy Crawford.

Check here for <u>submission guidelines</u> before contacting him.

15. Alex Adsett

Alex Adsett is a publishing consultant and literary agent who has worked with publishers including Edita Sleepers, Australian Society of Authors, University of Queensland Press, and the Copyright Agency. She started her bookselling career at Pulp Fiction bookshop in Brisbane, Australia and later moved to London, UK and worked at Murder One bookstore followed by more than two years working for Simon and Schuster UK.

Alex spent 3 years in her dream job as part of the Rights and contracts Department of Penguin Books in Melbourne on returning to Australia before moving to the Contracts Department of John Wiley & Sons, Australia, Ltd.

She has been working in the bookselling and publishing industry for the past 20 years. During this time, she has also managed Alex Adsett Publishing Services established by her in 2008.

<u>Alex Adsett Publishing Services</u> is a full-service literary agency originally offering freelance consultancy services to Australian publishers and authors, representing quality works of fiction and non-fiction for children, teen, and adults, focusing on commercial publishing contracts.

It also expanded to offer traditional literary agent representation to authors.

As a Consultant, Alex provides commercial and strategic advice to independent publishers and authors regarding publishing contracts. She has worked with authors such as Isobelle Carmody, Kylie Chan, Graeme Simsion, and Barry Humphries.

She is always seeking exciting new manuscripts with a focus on fiction and narrative non-fiction, especially SFF, crime and romance for all ages from Picture books to adults. Alex delivers a regular seminar on copyright and a publishing contract around Australia and serves on various NFP literary boards including Queensland writers Center, Small Press Network.

She can be reached on <u>Twitter</u> or skulking around bookshops. She is only accepting manuscripts via Conference pitching sessions or personal recommendations.

16. Martin Shaw

Martin Shaw joined Alex Adsett Publishing Services with an intimidating reputation and wealth of experience in the Australian Bookselling and Publishing Community. He also worked at Melbourne Independent bookshop chain, Readings for more than 21 years as Chief Book Buyer and he helped make Readings the celebrated bookseller it is today.

As a literary agent, Martin is seeking literary fiction and non-fiction for adults. He represents both established literary authors and upcoming voices. Martin worked tirelessly to showcase Australian authors to the European and UK markets and bringing new voices to the attention of the Australian audience as part of his move to Germany in 2015.

He accepts submissions of literary fiction and narrative non-fiction manuscripts.

You can contact him <u>here</u> or <u>email</u> for submission guidelines.

17. Frances Plumpton

Frances has had a long successful career as the children's librarian, and she also held positions including Service Development Librarian for children and youth and later, Preschool services Librarian for Waitakere libraries, Auckland.

She joined Richards Literary Agency in 2006 and managed their children's client list for 6 years. She advocates for New Zealand children's literature and was also a member of Children's Literature Association of New Zealand presently known as Storylines Children's Literature Charitable Trust of New Zealand from the 1970s.

Frances was closely involved in the New Zealand Children's book exhibition held at the International Youth Library, Munich, Germany in 1981 and 1985. She has also had experience reading and assessing manuscripts over the years for the Children's Publication Fund, Queen Elizabeth 11 Arts Council, for local publishers and the Storylines Tom Fitzgibbon Award for an unpublished writer.

She can be contacted here or check for submission guidelines here.