

## Vale Jesse Blackadder

The Australia Council wishes to acknowledge the death of author Jesse Blackadder and acknowledge her contribution to Australian literature, as a writer of books for both adults and children.

Jesse was the author of four adult books, *Sixty Seconds*, *Chasing the Light*, *The Raven's Heart* and *After the Party*; five children's books, *Stay*, *the Last Dog in Antarctica*, *Paruku*, *the Desert Brumby*, *Dexter*, *the Courageous Koala*; and, with Laura Bloom, the 'Dream Riders' books, *Frankie* and *Storm*.

Jesse had a close connection to the Australia Council through her role as a peer assessor. She was also a peer assessor for Create NSW, and was on the board of the Byron Writers Festival, where she was a founder of the festival's StoryBoard program.

Australia Council staff have described her as a "warm, funny, engaged and a very sensitive writer". We extend our greatest sympathies to her friends, family and colleagues.