

## National Cultural Policy Submission

Submitting on behalf of a not-for-profit arts organisation. This submission can be made public.

## About Adelaide Contemporary Experimental (ACE)

Located in Adelaide's iconic Lion Arts Centre precinct, Adelaide Contemporary Experimental (ACE) is South Australia's leading independent contemporary visual arts organisation, proudly supporting artists to develop and present work on Kurna Yarta (Kurna Country).

Established through the merger of Contemporary Art Centre of South Australia (CACSA) and the Australian Experimental Art Foundation (AEAF) in 2017, ACE builds upon the legacy of over 100 years of innovative experimental arts practice in South Australia.

Through exhibitions, studios, public programs, professional development opportunities and publications, ACE expands the edges of contemporary visual art practice, embraces diversity and provides a space for artists to take risks.

## Introduction to ACE's submission

ACE welcomes the development of a National Cultural Policy and echoes the view of the National Association for the Visual Arts (NAVA) that the development of a National Cultural Policy should guide the more comprehensive development of a 10-year National Cultural Plan which will work across government portfolios to leverage and invest in the civic benefits of arts and cultural programs.

ACE joins our sector colleagues through the Contemporary Art Organisations Australia (CAOA) network in advocating for the following levels of investment to achieve the ambitions of the sector that should underpin the National Cultural Policy:

- \$100 million investment to pay First Nations people in professional, board and advisory council roles, as well as for professional pathway programs that will embed First Nations arts workers in arts organisations
- \$100 million additional funding for independent artists distributed through arm's length funding and more diverse grant rounds
- \$100 million additional funding for small-to-medium arts organisations for the points outlined in Objective 3 and to support the sustainable delivery of operations, new work, learning and participation objectives, and related community engagement. As was demonstrated with the implementation of the Visual Arts and Crafts Strategy in 2002, this additional investment will have a significant impact in strengthening the capacity of the

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cultural sector to contribute to national life, cultural identity and participation, community wellbeing and the economy.

- \$50 million additional funding for strategic international initiatives that are driven by small-to-medium arts organisations and/or independent artists
- Restoration of funding to the Australia Council and increased investment to support the above objectives and, in particular, First Nations Advancement, Organisational Strength and the Centrality of the Artist.
- Renewal of and increased investment in the Visual Arts and Crafts Strategy (VACS), building on the demonstrated outcomes of VACS over the past two decades to ensure cooperation and reciprocity across federal and state agencies, and to enhance artform innovation and program delivery, engagement and impact in metropolitan, regional and international contexts

### Recommendations

In this submission ACE most strongly supports the following NAVA recommendations across the five pillars.

- Industrial reform for visual arts, craft and design:
  - o Implementation of an award rate arts workers and artists to guide the sector and ensure adequate and equitable wages
  - o Portable long service leave that will recognise the continued contribution of arts workers regardless of tenure in a particular organisation
  - o Superannuation for gig workers
- Increase funding for arts education across schools through existing Commonwealth-state schools funding agreements. Ensure artists are engaged by the education department respectfully (fair contracts). Reinstate the partnership between Federal and State Governments to fund the artist in schools programs.
- More frequent and diverse grant rounds for independent artists, specifically funding for research and development; presentation; and quick response grants for time sensitive opportunities locally, nationally and internationally.
- Basic income scheme for artists and arts workers.
- Centrelink to recognise art as a profession.
- Superannuation reform so that visual artists receive super contribution.
- Prizes, fellowships, scholarships, and government grants be made tax exempt.

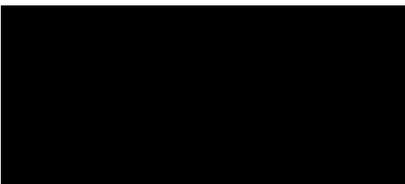
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- Invest in existing peak bodies, support agencies and service organisations to increase professional development programs for artists and arts workers.
- The key artforms (dance, drama, media arts, music, visual arts and design) are core and mandatory in the national curriculum for all children at all levels. Secondary schools are properly resourced with specialist arts teachers.
- Increase the number of targeted First Nations arts worker and leadership roles across small-to-medium arts organisations and the arts sector more broadly.
- Invest in First Nations-led education, training, mentorship and skills development programs to support First Nations employment and representation in middle-tier jobs, leadership roles, boards, and Aboriginal advisory groups.
- Provide cultural safety and awareness training for galleries and arts organisations.
- A place for every story or 'diversity' isn't its own pillar. The pillars need to be broken down and the policy needs to have a whole-of-ecology approach and all these things embedded throughout.
- Establish an Anti-Racism Strategy. Anti-racism to be central to arts recovery to work towards an equitable sector.
- Invest in opportunities for artists and arts workers with disability to gain sustainable, reasonable employment opportunities or opportunities to earn income and to develop a career path. Increase the visibility of people with disability as leaders or in senior management positions across the arts sector.
- Increased investment in international commissioning, reciprocal and bilateral partnership, research and professional development, that can support artists throughout their careers.

### Contact Details

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# ACE