

National Cultural Policy Submission

Anonymous

Submitted: As an individual

What challenges and opportunities do you see in the pillar or pillars most relevant to you? Feel free to respond to any or all pillars:

First Nations

Not relevant as not First National identified, hence excluded. It is difficult ground for anglo/celtic poets to even discuss the issues involved in this area.

Attention in this area is long overdue. However, it needs to be work of quality, and not just work rewarded because it is First Nations work. That way is too easy for the white conscience.

A Place for Every Story

As we age, many in my generation of established poets (65/70 and above), is feeling invisible, as we fit no identity politics category. Not being slam or 'performance' poets in the current sense, and without desire to self label sexuality, we are more and more excluded from performance and from funding.

The Centrality of the Artist

Having lived in Ireland for prolonged periods, comparatively I've experienced a profound neglect for established poetry and poets in Australia. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I've watched with dismay at the waning of community attention and Government respect for poetry in this country.

Reaching the Audience

My books, and I have a dozen with established publishers, have always sold at readings, festivals and workshops. Covid killed that. Also, festivals should have been required to employ a specific component of Australian writers, as internationals are now toured through the festivals, leading to further exclusion. In addition, this tour path for International writers to each festival, means less space for local writers at 'local' festivals.

Poetry publishers have no PR funding and less push power to get their poets onto the festival books, compared to established fiction publishers.

Strong Institutions

My feeling is that the Australian Poetry, the institution, has become firmly youth and slam poetry oriented, and needs a regular 3 yearly review.

Are there any other things that you would like to see in a National Cultural Policy?

Yes, attention to those older artists who do not fit easily current identity politics categories. In Ireland, there are specific awards for 'established poets' with 3 books or more. I feel ageism is rife. But maybe I'm getting old and grumpy! I've been publishing for over 50 years now, and it's harder than it has ever been.

