

ANONYMOUS

To: The Office for the Arts

Policy Reform Recommendations: Enforcing Absolute Equality and Grassroots Accountability under *Revive*

April 2026

Dear Minister,

In response to the Revive National Cultural Policy, I submit this much needed recommendation for structural reform. While *Revive* establishes a vision for inclusion, it requires a more rigorous mechanism to ensure that smaller cultural groups are not merely "included," but are equal partners in the national narrative. Our nation is characterized by a profound demographic plurality, encompassing a vast array of nationalities and, consequently, a diverse spectrum of religious denominations. Certain cohorts within this mosaic maintain theological frameworks that diverge from established Western secular norms, often conflating religious identity with political ideology. To cultivate a cohesive and harmonious social fabric, it is imperative to implement decisive, principled measures that authentically reflect our collective societal aspirations that will stamp out inequality.

Additionally, often inequality disadvantages small groups since funding mostly benefits dominant associations. These recommendations do not distinguish between size, background or religious affiliations, and ensure all Australians benefit from calling diversity a medium caring for the few only.

1. Absolute Equality in Funding Distribution

A primary flaw in past policies is the disproportionate concentration of funds within "Major" institutions, leaving smaller migrant groups to compete for the remnants. I propose a transition to Absolute Funding Equality. Available resources should be distributed equitably across all recognized cultural groups, regardless of size or historical prominence. This prevents the "prestige gap" and ensures that a community's ability to tell its story is not dictated by its political or economic weight.

2. From Idolization to Collective Recognition

Historical frameworks have often "idolized" individual creators, inadvertently creating a hierarchy of "elite" artists. To align with the principle of *A Place for Every Story*, funding should prioritize collective and community-led initiatives over the promotion of single "icons." By shifting the focus from the individual to the group, we foster a culture of cooperation where the success of a festival is measured by the breadth of participation, not the fame of its headliner.

3. Mandated Inclusion: The "Large-to-Small" Support Model

To enforce genuine cohesion, government funding for larger, established cultural festivals must be contingent upon the active integration and sponsorship of smaller groups. Larger organizations should be structurally required to share their infrastructure—stages, marketing, and logistics—with emerging or smaller migrant groups. This transforms "inclusion" from a suggestion into a funded mandate, ensuring smaller voices are amplified by the reach of larger ones and providing the opportunity for all newcomers to be promoted.

4. Direct Accountability and Community Oversight

Financial accountability must extend beyond standard government reports. I recommend a "Direct Connection" audit system, where sponsored organizations are held accountable directly by the smaller groups they are tasked to assist.

- Reciprocal Reporting: Funded organizations must provide evidence of how they assisted smaller groups.
- Direct Validation: The "assisted" smaller groups must submit a concurrent validation report confirming the support was received. Failure to demonstrate this direct assistance should trigger an immediate review of future funding eligibility.

Conclusion

The *Revive* philosophy will only succeed if we dismantle the hierarchies of the past. By installing absolute equality, removing the culture of idolization, and mandating direct accountability to the smallest stakeholders, we have a better opportunity that the Australian nationality is a true reflection of all its people.

Sincerely,

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