

National Cultural Policy Submission

1467972

Public

Individual

Elizabeth Hyett



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

As an artist my greatest challenge is sustainable income. I live on Disability Pension, but I wish I could work in the Arts industry. In a Gallery, or in the publishing industry, or in music. I am very accomplished, but unable to get real paid work. It's very difficult to earn money as a freelancer. I'm concerned about how arts prizes are taxed. If I'm ever fortunate enough to win a prize of an amount that could make a difference to my life, I will not receive that amount because of tax. Say, a \$50000 prize will be taxed as though it is income, unlike a windfall as a lottery winner.

I've paid so much money entering prizes and paying for materials that I have years and years of income losses, and prize money should take into account all those years of losses.

I'm also concerned about the WHO of the National Cultural Policy. I've applied for grants and jobs and prizes, and the winners seem to be overrepresented in certain categories of diversity. I'm sick of the arts pushing woke ideals.

I think most of the 'real' artists in our society won't be making a submission, or applying for a grant, and certainly not receiving a grant. This is because the people who genuinely live and breathe art don't know how the system works. The system favours people who know how the system works, whereas sincere artists operate outside of the system. It's a paradox.