

National Cultural Policy Submission

1468099

Public

Individual

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Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

In addressing Pillar 3 I would like to say that an income for an artist is most often hand to mouth. I would propose realigning the tax system so artists/art workers whose practice is project based, are not taxed on their income until it reaches a minimum threshold in any one year. In other words in a PAYG situation, for example, tax is not extracted by the employer until that person in a financial year has reached 40k as a minimum. It would save that person a major part of their income and a great deal of paperwork at the back end. I work in Film and television and work is sometimes sparse and there are big gaps between employment. It's not sustainable for many people wanting to break into the industry as they spend any money saved to survive the gaps. This could also apply to artists working to commissions or exhibitions or theatre and dance and music productions, or art contract workers supervising short term projects. Keeping creative industry sustainable is only possible when people feel supported through income support. (And keep in mind not everyone gets a grant)

If my personal experience is anything to go by, as a young 20 something, my most prolific year as an artist was when I was on the dole. Full time studio practice allowed for a solo show, 5 group shows and a performance piece to open the 5th Australian Sculpture exhibition at Heide Gallery. That year set me up for a career in the arts.