

Within the Frankfurt School of thinking there is the idea that culture acts as a tool of ideological control. If that is true, directing the culture of a people is an attempt at directing the ideology of a people.

In my view, albeit a view that originates from a foreign land, culture is not something that needs tending like a garden. A garden can be pruned and preened into something that might appear to the discriminating tastes of the gardener as beautiful, but beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Every administrative act on the culture of Australia is an act to arrange the culture, to control it, and to restrict it.

Culture is a natural state of existence. It is a communal creation of everyone within the group. Culture also has a memory. When a culture is stifled and destroyed it creates resentment. The surviving parts of the destroyed culture are enveloped by anger and hate.

I believe in the good of a government that upholds equality of all under the law. I see equity as direct opposition to equality. Harmony and togetherness will never be created through new discrimination to counter past discrimination.

A policy on culture should have such a light touch that it is narrowly felt at all. A First Nations First pillar is not light handed and acts in opposition to the pillars of A Place for Every Story and Engaging the Audience. I understand the inclination to hold first nations people above everyone else due to the cruel treatment their people and culture has endured but in this context it does not benefit the wholeness of Australia and it will encourage discord and division.

Is the goal of Australia's Culture Policy to grow division within Australia's culture through the propagation of subcultures or is the goal to define a unified culture that connects all Australians?