

## National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public

Organisation

Indians in Sydney

Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

Australia is at a turning point. As a community and cultural advocate and recipient of the NSW Government Community Service Award, my work involves connecting people everyday using social medias. I am writing this submission not just for them, but for every Australian who feels that our national story is becoming harder to hear in a noisy, digital world. The National Cultural Policy 2026 must be the \,social glue\, that unites our entire country—from the remote outback to the high-density suburbs.

### The National Challenge: Unity Through Storytelling

A national policy must serve everyone. Currently, there is a \,cultural divide\, between those who can access major city institutions and the millions of Australians living in suburban and regional areas. If we don't address this, we risk becoming a fragmented nation. We seek a policy that prioritises Australian Sovereignty, ensuring that our unique values and stories aren't replaced by generic, global digital content.

### Pillar 1: First Nations First (Our Shared Foundation)

First Nations culture is the bedrock of Australia. For any Australian, whether their family has been here for ten generations or ten days.. honouring this history is how we find our common ground. We support self-determination for First Nations creators because a strong foundation makes the whole house of Australian culture more stable.

### Pillar 2: A Place for Every Story (The Suburban Reality)

With 51% of our population connected to overseas heritage, multiculturalism isn't a \,side project\,. it is the Australian mainstream. However, \,Participation Poverty\, affects all low-income and suburban families. The 2026 policy must decentralise funding, moving it out of the CBD and into local community hubs where the real Australia lives and breathes.

### Pillar 3 & 4: The Economy of Creativity

The creative sector is a powerhouse, contributing \$67.4 billion to the GDP and employing 591,000 workers. This is a national jobs issue. We propose:

**National Digital Creation Hubs:** Co-locating tech labs in local libraries across the country. This isn't just for one group; it's for every kid in Australia who wants to build a game or film a story but doesn't have the gear at home.

**Fair Pay for All:** Professionalising the sector so that any Australian choosing a creative career has the same workplace protections and dignity as a trade or office worker.

### Pillar 5: Engaging the Audience (National Pride)

We must protect our \,cultural borders\,. In 2026, we need strict Australian content quotas on streaming platforms. Every Australian child deserves to see heroes who speak their language and live in their landscapes. This is how we build national resilience and pride.

This policy should be human-centred and inclusive of every person who calls Australia home. By focusing on suburban infrastructure and protecting our national stories, we ensure a creative, self-reliant, and unified Australia for everyone.