

**National Cultural Policy Submission**

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Public and anonymous



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

To the Consultation Panel,

I am writing to contribute to the discussion regarding the future of the arts in Australia. While the pillars aim for inclusivity, I believe there is a significant risk that those of Caucasian background and traditional Australian heritage are being left out of the modern \,cultural box.\,

1. Pillar 2: A Place for Every Story

A truly inclusive policy must ensure that \,every story\, includes those that have historically formed the backbone of our regional communities. Many Australians now feel that their heritage is being sidelined in favour of a more curated version of diversity. To be a truly multicultural nation, we must recognise that Caucasian and European-descended identities are essential threads in our cultural tapestry. Cultural policy should not be about replacing one identity with another, but about ensuring no one feels \,left behind\, or excluded because they don't fit a specific modern demographic.

2. Pillar 4: Strong Cultural Infrastructure

For the arts to be sustainable in regional areas, we need to support the small businesses and local creators who maintain our history. As a writer and former small business owner, I see that cultural identity is often tied to the \,everyday\, Australian experience. Infrastructure funding should support local storytelling that reflects the lived reality of regional families, ensuring that our heritage is prioritised alongside newer initiatives.

3. Pillar 5: Engaging the Audience

The arts must remain relatable to the quiet majority. If the goal is to \,connect\, with Australians, the content must reflect the faces and histories of the people in our towns. When traditional Australian identities are missing from our screens, galleries, and stages, the government loses the engagement of a massive section of the audience. We need an arts sector that organises itself around representing all Australians, ensuring that the Caucasian cultural identity is valued as a foundational part of our national story.

Conclusion:

I urge the panel to broaden the definition of \,cultural identity\, to explicitly include Caucasian Australians. We must ensure that in our effort to be inclusive, we do not accidentally create a culture of exclusion for those who have called this country home for generations.