

National Cultural Policy Submission

1468654

Public

Organisation

Good Gumnuts Festival



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

I am a festival director based in lutruwita/Tasmania, working across live music, community events, and regional cultural development. My work focuses on delivering inclusive, accessible events that showcase Australian artists while supporting local communities and economies.

The cultural sector, particularly in regional areas, is experiencing both strong opportunity and ongoing pressure. There is clear audience demand for live experiences, and a growing appetite for diverse, Australian-led programming. At the same time, rising costs across production, travel, and staffing continue to challenge sustainability, especially for independently run festivals and organisations.

Programs like Revive Live play an important role in strengthening the sector by providing targeted support that allows events to take creative and operational risks. This kind of funding enables organisers to invest in Australian artists, improve audience experiences, and build long-term capacity, rather than simply delivering a one-off event.

One of the key opportunities for the sector is continued investment in regional activity. Regional festivals and venues are critical to the broader cultural ecosystem. They create pathways for artists to tour, connect communities to live performance, and contribute to local economies. Supporting regional touring circuits, in particular, allows artists to extend their reach while making events more viable.

Accessibility and inclusion are also increasingly central to cultural practice. There is growing expectation from audiences that events are designed to be welcoming and accessible to all. Support for accessibility initiatives, including infrastructure, services, and training, ensures that events can meet these expectations and continue to broaden their audiences.

Sustainability is another key focus. Events are actively seeking ways to reduce waste and environmental impact, but these initiatives often come with additional upfront costs. Continued support in this area would enable more organisations to adopt sustainable practices and contribute to long-term environmental outcomes.

It is important that national cultural policy continues to recognise the value of grassroots and independent organisations. These groups are often the ones driving innovation, supporting emerging artists, and delivering cultural outcomes in communities that may otherwise have limited access to the arts.

In response to these challenges and opportunities, ongoing investment in flexible, accessible funding programs is essential. Programs that are straightforward to apply for, responsive to the realities of the sector, and focused on long-term impact will continue to strengthen Australia's cultural landscape.

Continued support through initiatives like Revive Live helps ensure that Australian stories, music, and creative work remain visible, accessible, and thriving across the country.