

**National Cultural Policy Submission**

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Public and anonymous



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

Australia’s cultural and creative life is both grounded in long-standing traditions and shaped by ongoing change. The development of a new National Cultural Policy provides an important opportunity to ensure that this evolving reality is reflected clearly across all pillars of the framework.

Building on Revive: a place for every story, a story for every place, the continued recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures as foundational is essential and should remain central under the “First Nations First” pillar. At the same time, the pillar “A Place for Every Story” presents an opportunity to further strengthen how multicultural Australia is understood within the policy.

For many Australians from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, culture is not an additional layer of identity but part of everyday life. Languages, traditions, faith practices, and intergenerational knowledge actively shape how culture is created, shared, and experienced across communities. Recognising this lived reality can strengthen the policy’s goal of ensuring all Australians see themselves reflected in the nation’s cultural life.

In this context, there is an opportunity to move beyond inclusion as a concept and towards more consistent participation and representation across the sector. This is particularly relevant to the pillars of “Centrality of the Artist” and “Engaging the Audience”. Artists and cultural practitioners from diverse backgrounds can face barriers to visibility, career sustainability, and access to platforms. Targeted support and pathways can help ensure that the cultural workforce more closely reflects the diversity of contemporary Australia.

Similarly, under “Strong Cultural Infrastructure”, consideration could be given to how community-based and grassroots cultural spaces are supported. Many cultural expressions take place outside formal institutions, including in community settings, local events, and informal networks. Recognising and supporting these spaces would strengthen access and participation, particularly for communities that may not traditionally engage with established cultural institutions.

The policy may also benefit from recognising areas of connection across cultures. Shared values around storytelling, family, heritage, and connection to place can provide a foundation for greater understanding and cohesion. Highlighting these commonalities can support stronger engagement across diverse audiences.

Overall, the next National Cultural Policy has the opportunity to present a balanced and confident vision of Australia’s cultural identity. This includes maintaining the central place of First Nations cultures while also ensuring that multicultural communities are reflected not only as participants, but as ongoing contributors to Australia’s cultural narrative.

A policy that supports both foundations and contemporary diversity will be better positioned to strengthen participation, support artists, and reflect the lived experiences of people across Australia.