

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public and anonymous



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

I am writing to support the future of Australian culture by strongly advocating for sustained public investment in independent arts organisations and venues, including La Mama Theatre.

Independent theatre is essential cultural infrastructure. It is where new Australian stories are developed, where emerging artists gain experience, and where creative risk-taking can happen outside commercial pressures. These spaces nurture writers, directors, actors, designers and producers who go on to shape the broader cultural sector. Without a strong independent sector, the national arts ecology is weakened at every level.

La Mama Theatre is a clear example of why this matters. For decades, La Mama has provided an irreplaceable home for experimental, original and diverse performance. It has supported generations of artists, many of whom would not have had a pathway into the industry through mainstream institutions alone. Its contribution to Melbourne and Australia extends far beyond ticket sales or attendance figures—it creates community, artistic innovation, mentorship, and cultural memory.

Venues like La Mama also provide something increasingly rare: accessible, intimate places where people gather in person to experience ideas, storytelling and connection. They enrich civic life, strengthen local economies, and help define Australia as a creative and culturally confident nation.

If we value Australian voices, artistic innovation, and the next generation of creators, then we must treat independent theatre as critical infrastructure worthy of long-term support. I urge the government to prioritise stable funding, policy protection and investment in organisations like La Mama and the wider independent arts sector.

Supporting these institutions is not a luxury—it is an investment in Australia’s cultural future.