

National Cultural Policy Submission

1468782

Public

Individual

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Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

My statement is in response to the National Cultural Policy, as a regional creative talent – Actor, Writer and producer.

Revive is on the right track, in its public and touring works and in-schools creative programming. Where it misses the mark, is in the lack of real funding for creative arts practitioners across the board. There is still competition for funding (wages) in this sector, which is problematic for me when considering how and why I work, and with whom.

Places of Engagement - Artists and creatives need to have a constant presence, opportunities and access to public and private spaces/venues to hone their work, without compromise. We are all working at home for the most part and ongoing financial assistance could build confidence in our capacity to be individual and team players.

Job security - Artists and creatives lose money, when their only income is from bums on seats and real wages do not apply. We need better ongoing financial security. Imagine if public servants had their wages determined by how many people knew them, or were able to engage with them directly about a claim/query. Imagine an accountant being told they should work for nothing, because they get so much pleasure out of their job.

Real Wages - I find it quite exhausting to continually have to restate my case for basic \$\$'s to produce work that does not cover all my costs, as the amounts granted do not stretch far, and I am constantly looking for multiple funding sources to get work off the ground or for generous theatre venues to offer in-kind support, once again, via a competitive application process.

Festival events - If it was a popularity contest, we might be better off back in the gladiatorial arena. Footy manages this spectacle with remarkable efficiency using up and spitting young folk at a rapid rate, creating significant impact on their physical and mental health in the process. Festival Events are great for venues, sponsors and tourism, not always for artists and organisers. Many unpaid hours go into this labour of love. Better support here would be amazing.

Time is Money - There is always work to be done/rehearsals to be had and the quiet practise of making that is not, driven by audience. It is valuable work, upon which we as a society, place little to no monetary value at all. Artists and producers are put through the ringer every time in competitive rounds of deck shuffling/crumb-pecking funding rewards.

Health Benefits - Artistic and creative endeavour is a large part of our service to the public to improve mental health. We keep people on track and out of hospitals and prisons. We go to hospitals, prisons and schools. We are an important part of Australia's human infrastructure.

Suggestions to free up artists and creatives:

FREE - Open Studios, theatres and rehearsal rooms.

LIVING WAGE - Full or part-time, by application with annual review built in.

JOB SUPPORT – More creative engagement inside institutions and out in community.