

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public and anonymous

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Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

As a parent of Torres Strait Islander children, I can see that they struggle to understand their culture because the media often presents First Nations cultures as one uniform culture and identity. Every language group had their own dances, songs, rituals, stories and lores, much like they used to have in pre-industrial European language groups. I remember in Italy and France in the 90s at the end of the news broadcast, instead of talking about sport, they would present a short story about a cultural tradition from a different region. For example music from the Basque region, a religious festival in a small town in Calabria or the cheese-making process in another. Then they would explain the history and significance of this cultural tradition. I wish we could also have short Segments on tv about different First Nations traditions from around Australia. They could talk about a bush food from a region or a dance from another region, the story of some local rock art.