

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public and anonymous

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Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

I am continually disappointed by the lack of attention, opportunities and funding which flows to rural and remote creative communities. When funding does flow, it appears to go to regional communities in places like Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, Albury - places which are not remote and rural. They're regional. There needs to be differing allocation's and attention for rural and remote than regional. Voices here are not funded, our work not valued nor elevated. Publishing quotas for remote and rural voices needs establishing. If a publisher accesses govt funding they should be demonstrating they've published our work. We do not have access to the same infrastructure- patchy WiFi, less public facilities, less advocacy to speak about our work in rooms we're not in. Australian publishing in particular is a nasty place, a lot of cultural gatekeeping, social capital kept elevating urban voices at the expense of rural and remote voices. The rise of One Nation is scary for progressive rural creatives like me. It risks pushing me out of communities, or silencing progressives like me. Our work needs airtime and publishing widely to help facilitate social cohesion and a better public discourse. But with limited funding opportunities, limited social capital - how does that happen? Rural and remote political parties often fail progressive voices, not pushing for our elevation or creative work. This creates a cultural void in many rural and remote communities. I would like to see a considered and deliberate investment in creative practices in rural and remote communities. A generational change, an invigorating of story telling, creating, making in our communities outside large centres.