

**National Cultural Policy Submission**

1468906

Public

Individual

Rob Smith



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

I am making this submission as an individual concerned about balance and representation in Australia's cultural policy, what is being presented, what is being consumed (or not consumed due to lack of interest & relevance).

While I recognise the importance of supporting diverse cultural expressions, I believe current policy settings risk becoming overly concentrated in particular areas, which can leave other aspects of Australia's heritage feeling overlooked.

Australia's national identity has been shaped by multiple influences, including its British and European foundations, which underpin our institutions, language and many cultural traditions. These elements should be more clearly and consistently reflected in cultural policy, funding decisions and public cultural institutions.

A key concern is ensuring that cultural policy does not become narrowly focused, but instead reflects the full breadth of Australia's history and identity. A balanced approach would strengthen public confidence and ensure broader community engagement with the arts.

To address this, I recommend:

Greater emphasis on balance across funding and programming decisions

Support for cultural work that explores Australia's institutional and historical foundations

Transparent reporting on how different areas of culture are supported

Ensuring that audiences have access to a wide range of cultural perspectives and narratives

Cultural policy should unify rather than divide. A balanced and inclusive approach that reflects the full spectrum of Australia's heritage will better serve the community and strengthen long-term engagement with the arts.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute.