



### **Submission on National Cultural Policy: Revive**

Ramble Arts has been delivering youth arts programs across the Riverland and Mallee for over 40 years. Seeing Australia's cultural policy focused on a revival of the arts industry is a deeply welcome thing, and we are glad to share our voice on this policy.

The Pillar of 'A Place for Every Story' is a truly important pillar, but in reality will Australia's arts industry realise this goal? Recent history shows that regional, marginalized youth and artists in regional and remote communities always only get the scraps. Time and time again we hear policies speaking about the importance for access and support for everyone's stories, and then the same major metropolitan organisations are the ones to receive funding and support. There is deep inequity in how resources are distributed in the arts sector and we need federal oversight to protect from this.

To look to the future of how the federal government can best support the arts there must be first recognition that youth arts funding was gutted and the loss that the sector has faced. In 2007 there were over 20 youth arts organisations that received federal funding, but after the sector was decimated in 2015 there were less than 5. Our industry is vital but is having to fight tooth and nail to stay alive. We can't look to building a bright hopeful future without recognising that this industry was nationally decimated from funding cuts some 15 years ago and has never recovered. There are generations of young people who have not had opportunities to engage in the arts and this has and will continue to have a deep impact on the whole of Australia's arts industry as there aren't enough clear pathways for artists.

We are further behind than we were some 20 years ago. Our young people deserve to thrive, and we work hard to make sure that they do, but with the current state of youth arts funding it would be an insult to the many hard working organisations and all the many thousands of young people they support to act like the support is where it needs to be.



We want this policy to lead to a strong and stable future for Australia's arts industry, and to achieve that we need to ensure that all young Australians have access to pathways into the arts, for the sake of their wellbeing and the future of our creative industries.

This means not only pathways for children in affluent households in metropolitan areas, but that there are pathways for our most vulnerable, disadvantaged and isolated youth. These are the ones who need support the most and they have stories that deserve to be shared and listened to.

To achieve this we need to create actual organisational stability for the grassroots companies that are working in these fields, to renew supports and to allow the youth arts sector to grow and thrive.

Regards,

[Redacted signature]

**Ramble Arts**

