

## National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public

Organisation

Gascoyne in May Inc t/a 'Creality'

Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

Location: Remote Western Australia (Gascoyne Region (WA): Postcodes 6701, 6705, 6707 — covering Carnarvon, Shark Bay, Gascoyne Junction, and Exmouth).

If the next National Cultural Policy is serious about “a place for every story”, it must confront a hard truth: remote Australia is expected to deliver culture without being resourced to sustain it.

For 14 years, our organisation has delivered continuous, place-based arts programs across the Gascoyne. We have trained artists, built skills, created pathways, and contributed to build an emerging remote arts industry — without ever receiving operational funding.

We are not emerging. We are not experimental. We are established, proven, and still structurally unsupported.

### 1. Short-Term Funding is Systemic Failure

Remote work requires long-term, sustained programs developed by remote artists and the communities they are embedded in. Instead, we are trapped in short-term project cycles that undermine continuity and impact.

Right now, we are waiting on the outcome of a program designed to train local people to deliver year-round arts activity. The decision was due 1 May. It is now 6 May, and there is still no outcome.

This is not an isolated issue — it is standard practice.

We are forced into “funding chicken”, where organisations cannot plan, employ, or commit. This is not inefficiency — it is structural instability built into the system.

### 2. Proven Remote Organisations Are Being Undermined

We continue to compete with metropolitan organisations for funding to deliver work in our own communities. This actively undermines local capacity.

At the same time:

We train local people, who then leave because paid opportunities exist elsewhere

We build programs, but cannot sustain employment

We carry long-term impact, but receive short-term support

The system extracts outcomes from remote regions without investing in their sustainability.

### 3. Infrastructure Neglect is Holding Us Back

Remote delivery is constrained by a lack of basic, fit-for-purpose infrastructure.

We need:

Affordable, secure storage for technical assets

Climate-appropriate solutions (not heat-intensive shipping containers)

Investment in mobile systems designed for remote touring conditions

Without this, assets deteriorate and delivery is compromised. This is a solvable problem that remains unaddressed.

#### 4. Volunteer Labour is Being Exploited

Remote communities already carry essential volunteer roles — ambulance, SES, bush fire, sea rescue.

We are now expected to also volunteer for arts and tourism outcomes.

This is not community engagement — it is unpaid labour filling systemic gaps.

There is a limit to what communities can carry.

#### 5. Tourism is Being Prioritised Over People

Current funding settings frequently prioritise tourism-driven outcomes. The message is clear: visitors matter more than residents.