

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public and anonymous



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

Dear Minister, I am a concerned Australian citizen and arts enthusiast who strongly believes that art and culture should be for every Australian, regardless of background. I welcome the opportunity to contribute to the next National Cultural Policy. The cultural sector faces significant challenges: rising costs, digital disruption, changing audience behaviours (especially among younger people), and pressure on fair remuneration and creative rights. Opportunities exist in global demand for Australian content, new digital tools for creation and distribution, and the potential to broaden participation across our diverse population.

However, the current “First Nations First” Pillar undermines these opportunities by creating a formal hierarchy that divides rather than unites. While recognising the unique heritage of First Nations peoples, I do not believe any single group should be elevated above others in national policy. Significant dedicated funding — over \$25–32 million annually through Creative Australia plus other streams — already supports First Nations arts. Yet much of this appears to benefit a small elite of prominent artists, organisations, and administrators rather than delivering broad benefits to working artists or communities. This elite capture reduces transparency, efficiency, and public support for arts funding overall.

The five pillars matter to me because culture should foster shared national identity and maximum creative participation. “A Place for Every Story” cannot be genuine when one demographic group (approximately 3.5–4% of the population) is formally prioritised. This hierarchy risks resentment in our multicultural society and diverts resources from universal excellence. I see this daily where other artist of non indigenous background continue to feel left behind despite having a strong ability to deliver the brief for projects I work on. This is because the government favours spend and investments on indigenous artists rather than allowing equal opportunity.

What I would like to see reflected in the new National Cultural Policy:

- Remove “First Nations First” as a structural pillar and adopt a universalist approach based on equal opportunity for all Australian artists and creators.
- Prioritise artistic excellence, innovation, audience reach, skills development, and economic contribution.
- Allocate funding through open, merit-based processes open to everyone.
- Strengthen transparent evaluation and value-for-money assessments for all programs.
- Focus on shared Australian stories, resilient infrastructure, and genuine inclusion that unites our diverse communities. Australia’s strength lies in its multiculturalism and equal treatment of citizens.

A forward-looking cultural policy should maximise total creativity and participation, not institutionalise preference. I urge the government to build a unifying framework that truly delivers art for everyone. Thank you for considering my views.

Yours sincerely,

